

# ♥♦ Off With Their Heads! ♠♣

The Untold Story of the Queen of Hearts

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# *Dramatis Personae*

In order of appearance,

- The **DODO**
  - The properly speaking narrator of our tale.
- The **CHESHIRE CAT**
  - The grinning narrator of our tale.
- The **SIX OF HEARTS**
  - A denizen of Wonderland, and fan of the Great Wonderland Bake Off.
- The **NINE OF CLUBS**
  - A denizen of Wonderland, and concerned mother.
- The **FOUR OF SPADES**
  - A denizen of Wonderland, and enjoyer of cucumber sandwiches.
- The **WHITE RABBIT**
  - The announcer of the royal court.
- Regina Cora, The **QUEEN OF HEARTS**
  - Kindly ruler of Wonderland and all those whom within it reside.
- The **ACE OF SPADES**
  - A royal advisor with the style of an irritating businessperson.
- Baron von **TOP TRUMP**
  - Pompous and intolerant agricultural advisor to the Queen.
- The **KNAVE OF DIAMONDS / HEDGEHOG 1**
  - The brains
- The **KNAVE OF CLUBS / HEDGEHOG 3**
  - The brawn
- The **KNAVE OF SPADES**
  - The cleaner
- The **KNAVE OF HEARTS / HEDGEHOG 2**
  - The face
- The **MOCK TURTLE / the MOCKING TURTLE**
  - Not actually turtles, all played by the same actor.
- Regina Gemma, The **QUEEN OF DIAMONDS**
  - Friend of the Queen of Hearts and baker of buns
- The **MAD HATTER**
  - Not the Joker
- The **MARCH HARE**
  - A very loud and “British” lover of tea
- The **DORMOUSE**
  - A sleepy mouse who lives in a teacup

- **Treasurer UNO**
  - Treasurer for the House of Cards.
- **TWO OF SPADES**
  - A gardener
- **FIVE OF SPADES**
  - A gardener
- **EIGHT OF SPADES**
  - A gardener
- **ALICE!**

## *Song List*

- “The Quintessential Qualities of the Queenly Queen of Hearts”
  - Act 1 Scene 1
- “Bake It Off”
  - Act 1 Scene 3
- “Off With Their Heads!”
  - Act 1 Scene 9
- “Off With Their Heads?”
  - Act 2 Scene 4
- “Croquet Til You Croak, Hey!”
  - Act 2 Scene 6
- “About Time”
  - Act 2 Scene 9
- “Don’t Lose Your Head”
  - Act 2 Scene 9

# *Act 1*

## *Scene 1: It's Not Easy Being Queen*

*Enter the DODO and the CHESHIRE CAT.*

**DODO**

Good evening, good evening, one and all. It is most splendiferous to see all of you here this evening for yet another tale of Alice's Adventures in Wonderland. I'm sure you're all sitting comfortably, so without further ado, let's begin. Send in the White Rabbit, would you and let's get on with it.

**CHESHIRE CAT**

Actually, Dodo, that's not the tale we'll be telling this evening.

**DODO**

What? But this is Wonderland, we must be talking about Alice!

**CHESHIRE CAT**

Yes, yes, Alice's tale is a fantastical one, but there are other tales to be found in Wonderland.

**DODO**

Who made you an expert on this?

**CHESHIRE CAT**

I am a cat, you know, we're very good with tales. Now have you heard the story of the Queen of Hearts?

**DODO**

The Queen of Hearts, the blind fury tyrant of Wonderland? How could I forget -- she nearly had me executed: you too for that matter!

**CHESHIRE CAT**

Yes, yes, Dodo, I remember, but I also remember what she was like before she grew so...

**DODO**

Wicked?

**CHESHIRE CAT**

Well, yes, but I mean before she became so...

**DODO**

Twisted?

**CHESHIRE CAT**

Well and that but I mean before she was...

**DODO**

A massive bitch?

**CHESHIRE CAT**

Before she was so angry! Come, Dodo, allow me to explain. Back before Alice came to Wonderland, everything was ruled by the House of Cards: a monarchy that had been stable for years but grew weaker and weaker at its foundations as corruption spread throughout the court. Nevertheless, the House and all of Wonderland was ruled by a woman beloved by all: the Queen of Hearts!

*The DODO and CHESHIRE CAT exit and the stage rapidly fills with a pack of cards as a fanfare plays: the SIX OF HEARTS, NINE OF CLUBS, holding a baby (the Rules of Bridge), and the FOUR OF SPADES all assemble in quite an excitement!*

**Song: "The Quintessential Qualities of the Queenly Queen of Hearts"**

In which the CARDS extol the many fabulous qualities of everyone's favourite monarch.

**SIX OF HEARTS**

She's coming!

**NINE OF CLUBS**

She's coming!

**FOUR OF SPADES**

Who's coming?

**NINE OF CLUBS**

The Queen of Hearts, of course, who else?

**FOUR OF SPADES**

Whoever she chooses to bring, I would imagine.

**NINE OF CLUBS**

And who might that be?

**FOUR OF SPADES**

How should I know, I'm no Queen!

**SIX OF HEARTS**

Quiet, you two, look, here she comes!

*Enter the WHITE RABBIT.*

**WHITE RABBIT**

(Grandly, probably reading off a scroll)

Presenting her majesty, the greatest ruler of all Wonderland, the immaculate Regina Cora, the Queen of Hearts!

*Enter the QUEEN OF HEARTS, and the CARDS fall to their knees in respect with much rejoicing. The WHITE RABBIT hops off again.*

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

(Waving and blowing kisses to the audience)

My loyal subjects, welcome, welcome. Oh thank you, you are all too kind. Settle down, now, there we go. Now, what can I, your wonderful Queen, do for you?

*Immediately, the CARDS get up and start trying to explain their various requests at once, talking over each other, flummoxing the QUEEN.*

**FOUR OF SPADES**

(All at once)

Your majesty, your majesty! The cucumber crop yield this year looks to run low, and I haven't the faintest idea what we shall do should we run out of cucumbers. Perhaps you could lend some of your royal gardeners to assist us with improving the yield so that we might have all the cucumber sandwiches we wish...

**NINE OF CLUBS**

(All at once)

Your royal highness, your high royalness, my child is sickened for I simply cannot afford enough pepper. If you would be so kind as to give this poor card some small charity so I can afford pepper enough to properly prepare her food I would be ever so grateful, your greatness...

**SIX OF HEARTS**

(All at once)

Your majestic highesty, we face a crisis in the Great Wonderland Bake-off! The Seven of Diamonds has been accused of deliberately sabotaging the baked alaska of the Nine of Spades! You must do something, your majestness, before rioting takes the realm and...

*The QUEEN OF HEARTS shouts through this.*

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**  
SILENCE!

*They all shut up.*

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**  
Sorry to shout, but could you all please give your requests *one at a time*?

**NINE OF CLUBS**  
One at a time?

**FOUR OF SPADES**  
Why, oh, of course, your majesty!

*They pause for a moment, and then all talk at once again. The QUEEN despairs.*

**FOUR OF SPADES**  
(All at once)  
The cucumber crop yield this year looks to run low, and I haven't the faintest idea what we shall do should we run out of cucumbers. Perhaps you could lend some of your royal gardeners to assist us with improving the yield so that we might have all the cucumber sandwiches we wish...

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(All at once)  
We face a crisis in the Great Wonderland Bake-off! The Seven of Diamonds has been accused of deliberately sabotaging the baked alaska of the Nine of Spades! You must do something, your majestness, before rioting takes the realm and...

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

(Loudly)

Could you *please* first work out the order in which you wish to speak to me, please?  
Pretty please?

**NINE OF CLUBS**

And how are we meant to do that?

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

Just figure something out, would you, you're giving me a headache...

**SIX OF HEARTS**

Oh, very well. Come along, Queen's orders.

*They go to the side to try and work out what to do. Quietly.*

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

Thank goodness for that.

*Enter the WHITE RABBIT, with fanfares.*

**WHITE RABBIT**

Your majesty! I present the Ace of Spades, who wishes to speak with you!

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

(Composing herself)

Very well, Rabbit, send him i-

*Enter ACE OF SPADES, carrying a pile of paperwork and wearing one of those Bluetooth headset things that make you look like a twit. The WHITE RABBIT hops off again.*

**ACE OF SPADES**

(With all the charisma in the world)

Your majesty! Your majesty! Might I say you're looking as immaculate as ever today.

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

Why thank y-

**ACE OF SPADES**

Yes, yes, I'm too kind, I know, I'm afraid I need to steal a tiny smidgen of your time, if that's something I could ask.

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

Certainly. What is it you desire?



**ACE OF SPADES**

These planning permission forms for the permission for the expansion of the Royal Gardens into the Mushroom Meadows need to be rubber stamped and signed in triplicate by yourself before the end of day.

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

Signing forms? Surely you need me for something more important than that?

**ACE OF SPADES**

Well someone's gotta do it, your majesty, and - hang on, I've got a call, can you bear with me for a second?

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

Bear with you? I suppose I can, but-

*The ACE OF SPADES takes the call and ignores the QUEEN.*

**ACE OF SPADES**

Deborah! Hi! Great to hear from you, how are you doing?

...

Marvellous, Deborah, marvellous. Listen, I wanted to talk to you about the whole business deal with the Duchess-

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

Sorry, do you have to take this call *right* in front of me?

**ACE OF SPADES**

Hang on, Deborah.

(He looks back at the Queen)

What was that, your Majesty?

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

I said, do you have to take this call *right* in front of me?

**ACE OF SPADES**

It's highly important, your majesty.

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

Well, of course, but couldn't you go over there, slightly? Maybe?

**ACE OF SPADES**

As you wish, your Majesty.

*He sidles over to the side of the stage and the QUEEN begins reading the forms.*

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

Planning Permission Application Form Part two of... twenty two?

*The form unfolds into an enormous form, kind of like how it happens in the Hobbit.*

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

What in the-

*Enter WHITE RABBIT, with yet another fanfare, loud enough to make the QUEEN jump.*

**WHITE RABBIT**

Your majesty! Presenting your agricultural advisor, the esteemed Baron von Top Trump!

*Enter Baron von TOP TRUMP, waving a scroll, and the WHITE RABBIT hops off again.*

**TOP TRUMP**

(With all the pompousness and Uncle Vernon you can possibly channel)  
Queenie! Good to see you, good to see you! How the devil are you?

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

I've seen better days. What brings you here, Top Trump?

**TOP TRUMP**

I bring an important missive!

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

An important missive?

**TOP TRUMP**

An important missive indeed.

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

And what of it?

**TOP TRUMP**

Of what?

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

The missive!

**TOP TRUMP**

It's an important missive!

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

Yes, but what does it say?

**TOP TRUMP**

Oh, yes, it reads:

(He begins reading)

On the Ning Nang Nong, where the cows go bong, and the monkeys all say boo, there's a Nong Nang Ning where the trees go ping and the teapots jibber jabber joo, and there's a Nong Ning Nang where the mice go clang and you just can't catch them when they do.

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

Sorry, Ning Nang Nong? Cows go Bong?

**TOP TRUMP**

Yes, your Majesty. And Nong Nang Ning: trees go ping

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

Yes, yes, and of this Nong Ning Nang: mice go clang?

**TOP TRUMP**

Well it's a noisy place to belong is the Ning Nang Ning Nang Nong.

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

Evidently. It sounds like they've got a vermin problem, though, so we shall dispatch two of the royal cats to deal with the issue.

**TOP TRUMP**

Excellent, ma'am, I shall depart at once!

*He exits, and the QUEEN looks satisfied until the CARDS run back over.*

**NINE OF CLUBS**

Your majesty, your majesty! We've worked it out!

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

You've worked what out?

**NINE OF CLUBS**

We've worked out how to decide who goes first!

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

(Despairing)

Oh dear- I mean, oh good! Do tell, then?

**FOUR OF SPADES**

We're going to have a Caucus Race!

**SIX OF HEARTS**

And whoever wins the race gets to ask you first!

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

A Caucus Race? But nobody wins a Caucus Race!

*This doesn't deter them, and they all run off stage, happily.*

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

(Tiring)

Well that deals with that for n-

**ACE OF SPADES**

(Walking back over)

Fantastic, Deborah, I'm just having the Queen sign them off now. Thanks. Thanks.

Okay. You take care now. Bye. Bye.

(He puts the phone down, and looks at the pile of unsigned paperwork)

Ma'am, haven't you finished yet?

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

I've barely started!

**ACE OF SPADES**

I hate to be rude, but this paperwork is hardly going to fill itself out, is it?

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

I've been busy! It's not easy being Queen, you know!

**ACE OF SPADES**

Oh we've all got our problems, your highness, but can you get it done within the hour?

I've got to see a man about a walrus.

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

I suppose I c-

**ACE OF SPADES**

Ace! See you then.

(He starts talking to his earpiece again)

Deborah, hi, it's me again, can you get me directions to the Walrus by the coast? ... The only walrus by the coast, you know the one!

*Exit ACE OF SPADES*

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

(Exhausted)

Finally, silence.

*Enter the WHITE RABBIT to yet another fanfare.*

**WHITE RABBIT**

Your majesty, presenting-

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

(With fury)

DON'T YOU DARE.

**WHITE RABBIT**

(Scared)

I'll tell her to come back.

*The WHITE RABBIT hops off, terrified.*

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

Oh, no, I didn't mean to shout, it's just... oh come back!

*She runs off, chasing the WHITE RABBIT.*

## *Scene 2: Turtle Soup*

*Enter the CHESHIRE CAT and DODO.*

**DODO**

Good heavens, she seemed busy!

**CHESHIRE CAT**

That's not the half of it! For while things could be hectic at the best of times, malevolent schemes were all afoot in the heart of Wonderland's courts...

**DODO**

Ooh!

*The CHESHIRE CAT and DODO exit as enter the KNAVES, a nasty gang, bringing in the MOCK TURTLE with his head in a sack.*

**KNAVE OF DIAMONDS**

Drop him here, boys.

*They drop the MOCK TURTLE to the ground, but don't remove the sack yet.*

**KNAVE OF HEARTS**

It's no use, boss, he's not talking, see.

**KNAVE OF CLUBS**

He's not saying a word, ain't that right, Spades?

*The KNAVE OF SPADES nods.*

**KNAVE OF DIAMONDS**

Not talking, eh? Well we'll see how long that lasts. We've got a job to be doing, see, and we're not just going to settle for "not talking".

**KNAVE OF HEARTS**

Too right, boss, but what are we going to do?

**KNAVE OF DIAMONDS**

Persuade our guest to talk, would you? That is meant to be your area of expertise.

**KNAVE OF HEARTS**

Right you are, boss.

*He whips off the sack from the head of the MOCK TURTLE, who is very shaken.*

**KNAVE OF HEARTS**

Come on, Mock Turtle, tell us your story!

**MOCK TURTLE**

I've already told you: I don't know nothing!

**KNAVE OF HEARTS**

He says he doesn't know nothing, boss.

**KNAVE OF DIAMONDS**

Well then obviously he does know something. Wring it out of him, Clubs, we don't have all day.

**KNAVE OF CLUBS**

Sure thing, boss. I always wanted to see what a turtle without its shell looked like... Lend me a hand, Spades?

*The KNAVE OF SPADES nods and they both close in on the MOCK TURTLE, cracking their knuckles and the MOCK TURTLE bottles it.*

**MOCK TURTLE**

(Terrified)

Okay! Okay! I'll tell you! I'll tell you my story.

**KNAVE OF DIAMONDS**

Now that's more like it. Now spill, Turtle.

**MOCK TURTLE**

(Breathing quickly)

Okay, okay... Well, I used to be... a real turtle.

**KNAVE OF DIAMONDS**

Clubs.

*The KNAVE OF CLUBS hits the MOCK TURTLE.*

**MOCK TURTLE**

I was talkin', I was talkin'!

**KNAVE OF DIAMONDS**

You know what we want to know: we don't care about your past, Turtle, we care about the Tarts. Now are you going to tell us what we want to know or not?

**KNAVE OF HEARTS**

Or are we going to have to find out how tough your shell really is?

*The KNAVE OF CLUBS and KNAVE OF SPADES look threateningly at the MOCK TURTLE, who bottles it again.*

**MOCK TURTLE**

Okay, okay! The Queen of Hearts's famous tarts... Well...

**KNAVE OF DIAMONDS**

Well?

**MOCK TURTLE**

Well, they... they're round.

**KNAVE OF DIAMONDS**

And?

**MOCK TURTLE**

They're tarts.

**KNAVE OF DIAMONDS**

Clubs.

*The KNAVE OF CLUBS hits the MOCK TURTLE again.*

**MOCK TURTLE**

(In pain)

And they're magical! They're magical!

**KNAVE OF DIAMONDS**

Magical, you say?

**MOCK TURTLE**

Yes, yes, they're magical! They can make you grow twice your size in less than a week!

**KNAVE OF DIAMONDS**

Of course. Clubs.



*The KNAVE OF CLUBS hits the MOCK TURTLE again.*

**MOCK TURTLE**

(Wincing)

I mean, I mean they... they summon hot singles to your area!

**KNAVE OF DIAMONDS**

Clubs.

*The KNAVE OF CLUBS hits the MOCK TURTLE again.*

**MOCK TURTLE**

(Doubled over in pain)

Okay! Okay! You've made your point, you win...

(Composing himself)

I am the ghost of a 13 year old girl. If you do not forward this message to 15 people then-

*The KNAVE OF CLUBS hits the MOCK TURTLE again and he collapses to the floor.*

**KNAVE OF HEARTS**

This is hopeless, boss. He's just trying to bait us, see.

**KNAVE OF DIAMONDS**

Yes... Shame, really. But then again, I guess Mock Turtle Soup for dinner wouldn't hurt.

**MOCK TURTLE**

Soup?! You're going to make me into soup?

**KNAVE OF DIAMONDS**

Well your usefulness has clearly reached an end, so yes. Clubs, Spades: deal with the turtle.

*CLUBS and SPADES advance on the MOCK TURTLE who screams, terrified.*

**MOCK TURTLE**

THE TARTS ARE INCREDIBLY TASTY

**KNAVE OF DIAMONDS**

(Holding up his hands)

Hang on.

*CLUBS and SPADES stop.*

**KNAVE OF DIAMONDS**

How tasty?

**MOCK TURTLE**

Oh very tasty. The tastiest tarts in all the land. There aren't any tastier tarts in all of Wonderland.

**KNAVE OF HEARTS**

Now that's more like it. See, was that so hard?

*The MOCK TURTLE shakes his head, sobbing.*

**KNAVE OF DIAMONDS**

There we go. Now Clubs, Spades, turn him into soup!

**MOCK TURTLE**

But I told you everything!

**KNAVE OF DIAMONDS**

You did. And now you're more use to us as delicious Mock Turtle Soup.

**MOCK TURTLE**

But!

*The MOCK TURTLE tries to speak but is silenced by the KNAVE OF SPADES.*

**KNAVE OF HEARTS**

So now we know the tarts are tasty, boss, what's the plan?

**KNAVE OF DIAMONDS**

That's simple. Knave of Hearts, you shall steal the tarts!

**KNAVE OF HEARTS**

And then what, boss?

**KNAVE OF DIAMONDS**

Well we'll eat them, I suppose.

**KNAVE OF CLUBS**

Good plan.

**KNAVE OF DIAMONDS**

Of course it is. Now come on, let's put this soup on the boil...

*They exit, to go and make delicious mock turtle soup.*

OUTLES  
Oxford University Light Entertainment Society

### *Scene 3: The Queen's Buns*

*Enter the QUEEN OF HEARTS.*

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

Finally, peace and quiet. I swear, if that Rabbit brings one more guest I'll... well, be very annoyed, I suppose.

*Enter the WHITE RABBIT to another fanfare.*

**WHITE RABBIT**

Presenting her Royal Highness, her glittering magnificentness, Regina Gemma, the Queen of Diamonds!

*Enter the QUEEN OF DIAMONDS, complete with white roses. The WHITE RABBIT scampers off.*

**QUEEN OF DIAMONDS**

Heartie! It's so good to see you!

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

Oh, thank goodness, Di, I thought you were another commoner!

**QUEEN OF DIAMONDS**

A peasant, me? Heavens, darling, don't make me laugh. If it weren't you, I'd be offended. Off with your head, it would be.

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

Off with my head? How barbaric, dear, I really don't know what the attraction of beheadings is.

**QUEEN OF DIAMONDS**

It's so effective, darling, it's just one simple swish of an axe and all your problems are resolved.

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

Except for the blood stains on the carpet.

**QUEEN OF DIAMONDS**

An unavoidable side effect, I assure you, but in any case that's not why I'm here.

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

I had assumed. So what does bring you all the way to my palace?

**QUEEN OF DIAMONDS**

Why what else than

(Dramatically)

The GREAT WONDERLAND BAKE OFF?

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

Oh of course! Is it back on?

**QUEEN OF DIAMONDS**

Of course it is, darling, and this year you and I are going to enter and destroy the competition.

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

We are?

**QUEEN OF DIAMONDS**

Of course. You know your Tarts are renowned across the land-

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

Oh, do stop.

**QUEEN OF DIAMONDS**

I shan't — they're so juicy and sweet, people are simply lining up to taste-

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

My tarts?

**QUEEN OF DIAMONDS**

Your tarts.

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

They don't compare to your buns, though, my dear. So firm and round-

**QUEEN OF DIAMONDS**

But my buns against your tarts!

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

Well if you say-

**QUEEN OF DIAMONDS**

I do. Now come on, picture the scene: the Dodo presents some almond-flavoured scones; the March Hare, his teacakes; and then you enter with your tarts — the judges will be swept away by the flavour and your victory will be assured!

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

Well what about your buns? Where will they come?

**QUEEN OF DIAMONDS**

They'll come a close second, I'm sure. So come on, let's get baking!

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

Well I would, but there is rather a problem.

**QUEEN OF DIAMONDS**

A problem?

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

I am *Queen*, my dear, I've got priorities. The Ace of Spades dropped an enormous pile of paperwork on me not one scene ago.

**QUEEN OF DIAMONDS**

Oh come now, darling, surely you can take some time off to make some tarts? After all...

**Song: "Bake It Off"**

In which the Queen of Diamonds extols the virtues of baking and ignoring all your responsibilities.

*Exeunt.*

#### *Scene 4: The Mad Tea Party*

*Prior to this scene, and ideally up until this point, the MAD HATTER is sat in the audience, being inconspicuous. Enter the CHESHIRE CAT and the DODO.*

**CHESHIRE CAT**

Think you see where this is going?

*The DODO nods.*

**CHESHIRE CAT**

Good, good, but our story isn't quite as simple as that. No, while the Knaves plotted to steal the Queen's tarts, and the Queen plotted to make those tarts in the first place, we turn to the jovial Walrus and friends out on-

**MAD HATTER**

(Shouted from in the audience)

Oh I do wish you would shut up!

**DODO**

I beg your pardon!

*The MAD HATTER gets up from in the audience and heads onto the stage while talking, and twirling a knife in his fingers. The DODO and the CHESHIRE CAT are visibly disturbed by this intrusion and the presence of the HATTER.*

**MAD HATTER**

You're ever so tiring, you know, going on about Queens and Hearts and baking and tarts... what do you think? You're setting the scene? A grand tale about to emerge?

**CHESHIRE CAT**

(Visibly menaced)

We're... we're telling a story. And we'd appreciate it if you kept yourself out of it, Hatter.

**DODO**

Yes, quite out of it, thank you very much.

**MAD HATTER**

I'm always out of it, my extinct little friend.

**DODO**

Extinct?!

**MAD HATTER**

(Ignoring that)

Do you know what time it is?

**CHESHIRE CAT**

(Attempting to regain composure)

What time? My friend, it's nearly eight o'clock don't you know.

**MAD HATTER**

(Checking his pocket watch)

Eight o'clock you say? I make it a minute to six myself. I wonder why...

**DODO**

Then I assure you your pocket watch is wrong, now perhaps you should consult a watchmaker and let us get back to our st-

**MAD HATTER**

Do you know what happens at six o'clock?

**DODO**

(Flustered)

No, I don't think I-

**CHESHIRE CAT**

Six o'clock is time for tea, isn't it?

**MAD HATTER**

Very good! Very good! It's not just a pretty smile you've got there...

**DODO**

Whether or not it's time for tea is irrelevant: we shan't be partaking in it with the likes of... er...

**MAD HATTER**

With the likes of whom?

**DODO**

(Boldly)

With the likes of you!



*The MAD HATTER in one motion is behind the DODO with a knife to its neck.*

**MAD HATTER**

You were saying?

**DODO**

Um... um... I, er...

**CHESHIRE CAT**

Look, Hatter, we're really busy, just cut to it would you?

**MAD HATTER**

Now that really is a poor choice of words, Cheshire, I'd hate to have to wipe that smile off your face. I just want to know why Dodo here doesn't want to join me for tea.

**DODO**

(Squawked)

We... we... er... can't come to tea... because... we're... um... we're not properly dressed.

**MAD HATTER**

Well then you'd better get going and change before I finish off your extinction!

*The HATTER releases the DODO from the knife and the two scarpers from the stage.*

**MAD HATTER**

Now that's better. Dormouse! March Hare! It's nearly time for tea!

*Enter MARCH HARE and DORMOUSE at velocity carrying various teacups and tea accessories which they set up while talking.*

**MARCH HARE**

Time for tea? About time too, Hatter, it's nearly six o'clock don't you know.

**DORMOUSE**

(Dozily)

Six o'clock is time for tea...

**MARCH HARE**

Indeed it is, Dormouse, indeed it is!

**MAD HATTER**

(Irritably)

I am... *aware* it's six o'clock, Hare, it is *always* six o'clock. It was six o'clock this morning, Hare, when the caterpillars woke up, it was six o'clock today, Hare, as the ants ate their lunch, and it will be six o'clock this evening, Hare, when the lobsters go to bed. But here, Hare, here we shall be, having tea as ever, Hare, just as it's always been. Just as it will *always* be.

**MARCH HARE**

Well, um, yes, I suppose so. But still, if it's time for tea it's time for tea.

**DORMOUSE**

(Dozily)

Pass the tea...

*The MARCH HARE passes the DORMOUSE the teapot, which the HATTER intercepts on the tip of the knife and begins to sip from the teapot. The DORMOUSE looks offended and spends the remainder of the scene attempting to take it back (and failing).*

**MAD HATTER**

Now if you would be so kind, Hare, we need to get to business. There are things to be being done, after all.

**MARCH HARE**

Right you are, Hatter. I've got a message here from the Ace of Spades: says the Queen is just about to sign off on your construction plans.

**MAD HATTER**

Yes... Could always rely on the Ace of Spades to get a job done right. And the Mock Turtle has been turned into Soup, no doubt?

**MARCH HARE**

The Knaves saw to that, yes, and they believe they know about the tarts.

**MAD HATTER**

The tarts... oh the Knaves and the tarts, I'm sure they do. But it doesn't really matter... none of it *really* matters... Given time...

**MARCH HARE**

Doesn't it, Hatter?

**MAD HATTER**

You'll see soon enough, Hare. Heh. They'll all see.

**DORMOUSE**

See what?

**MAD HATTER**

Never you mind. Now finish your tea, Hare, haven't you seen the time?

**DORMOUSE**

Six o'clock? Time for tea!

**MAD HATTER**

Time for tea... time for tea... yes... Drink up!

*They drink up and the HATTER exits, followed by the HARE and DORMOUSE who bring the tea things with them.*

## *Scene 5: A Caucus Race!*

*Enter CHESHIRE CAT and DODO, warily*

**DODO**

Are they gone?

**CHESHIRE CAT**

I do believe so. Thank goodness, though we'll have to just cut the Walrus and go straight to the race.

**DODO**

The race?

*Enter the SIX OF HEARTS, the NINE OF CLUBS (still carrying a baby), and the FOUR OF SPADES, who begin warming up for the Caucus Race.*

**DODO**

Oh, a Caucus Race! A Caucus Race! There's going to be a Caucus Race!

**CHESHIRE CAT**

And after the Caucus Race?

**DODO**

Well whoever wins the Caucus Race gets to consult the Queen of Hearts first! I remember that plot point from the first scene, after all, don't you?

**CHESHIRE CAT**

I do, I do. Now, we have three fine athletes today, we have the Six of Hearts: winner of four Caucus Races this year and original junior champion of the international Wonderland Caucus Race Olympics.

*The SIX OF HEARTS flexes their muscles.*

**DODO**

Ooh, and then there's the Nine of Clubs: parent of ten children and winner of eight past Caucus Races. Member of the vicious Clubs family, truly a competitor to be feared.

*The NINE OF CLUB cracks their knuckles, still holding their baby.*

**CHESHIRE CAT**

And finally we have the Four of Spades. A new face on the Caucus Race scene, bookies have got long odds on this racer, but experts are interested to see what they can bring to the field.

*The FOUR OF SPADES poses heroically.*

### **DODO**

Now, it looks like they're warmed up for the race, so let's go to the starting line.

*The FOUR, SIX and NINE line up, ready to start.*

### **CHESHIRE CAT**

When you're ready: go!

*The FOUR, SIX and NINE run around all over the place, in circles, generally doing whatever they want. The NINE OF CLUBS probably throws their baby at other participants multiple times. In the meantime, the DODO and CHESHIRE CAT provide commentary in their best F1 commentator voices.*

### **DODO**

And they're off! The Four of Spades takes an early lead, heading into the first bend, but oh oh! They've been overtaken by the Nine of Clubs, coming round the outside.

### **CHESHIRE CAT**

This is a dangerous move by Nine so early in the race, but oh, OH here comes the Six of Hearts, down the back straight, getting the slipstream, and shooting into the lead.

### **DODO**

I, for one, am glad they changed the rules to allow that this year, it really makes things more interesting.

### **CHESHIRE CAT**

Wait, wait, what is this, it looks like the Four of Spades has taken the inside corner, the Nine of Clubs has gone wide and they're coming up to take the lead from Six and if I'm not very much mistaken- I AM VERY MUCH MISTAKEN! The Six of Hearts has shot across the apex and straight down the barrel-roll-

### **DODO**

Not only down the barrel-roll but I do believe that was a loop-de-loop right there. Highly technical terminology folks, but I assure you we do know what we're talking about, we are professionals.

### **CHESHIRE CAT**

I hate to interrupt you, Dodo, but we've got some fantastic action here between the Nine of Clubs and Six of Hearts: they're fighting for pole position in this the eighth and final qualifying round, it's close... it's close... and oh, is that? Could it be?

**DODO**

Yes! It's Numberwang!

**CHESHIRE CAT**

It's not only Numberwang, it's Mornington Crescent as well! Good grief, what a race we are seeing here. It looks like it's all over for the Four of Spades, taking up the behind, and yes, it is now. Ah, this is truly an historic event.

**DODO**

(Waving a checkered flag)

And there's the flag, the race is over. But who's the winner?

**CHESHIRE CAT**

My dear Dodo, it's a Caucus Race: everyone is the winner! And you know what that means?

**DODO**

Of course, Cheshire: that means prizes. Join us after the break at the podium where we'll talk to the racers and get their thoughts on the race.

*The CARDS exit, exhausted.*

**DODO**

Gosh, Cheshire, I got so caught up in that that I've completely lost track of the story.

**CHESHIRE CAT**

Oh, um...

**DODO**

Don't tell me you have as well? I thought you were telling this story!

**CHESHIRE CAT**

Well it was all very exciting! Come on, let's sit down a bit and see if I can't figure it out...

*Exit DODO and CHESHIRE CAT.*

*Scene 6: The Scene that totally isn't inspired by Current Events*

*Enter the QUEEN OF HEARTS, calling offstage to DIAMONDS. Enter Baron von TOP TRUMP from the other direction, carrying bricks.*

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

Now the tarts should take another 10 minutes in the oven, Di, and then there'll be done-

*The QUEEN bumps into the Baron and he drops the bricks.*

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

Baron von Top Trump! What *are* you doing with all these bricks?

**TOP TRUMP**

Building a wall, your majesty!

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

This rather raises a subsidiary question: why?

**TOP TRUMP**

Well to deal with the noisy teapots problem, your majesty.

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

Noisy teapots? What do you mean noisy teapots?

**TOP TRUMP**

Well the things you pour tea out of, of course!

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

And we have a problem with... teapots?

**TOP TRUMP**

Yes! And trees, and cows, and monkeys and mice-

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

As in literal trees, cows, monkeys and mice?

**TOP TRUMP**

Obviously, your Majesty. When I was visiting the Ning Nang Nong region with the royal cats, it was an awful din and threatening to spill over into the quiet serenity of the palace garden.

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

So you're building a wall?

**TOP TRUMP**

Yes! If we build a wall those teapots-

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

Literally teapots?

**TOP TRUMP**

Yes, yes, keep up, Queenie. Those teapots will never be able to jibber jabber joo at us!

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

Because of a wall?

**TOP TRUMP**

Exactly! A 20ft high concrete wall between the palace garden and the noisy farts all along the border.

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

Why not just build a fence?

**TOP TRUMP**

They can jump, your majesty!

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

But they're... they're TEAPOTS. And TREES! Trees can't jump!

**TOP TRUMP**

THAT'S JUST WHAT THEY WANT YOU TO THINK. All the way along, I say, twenty feet high!

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

All the way along? Good grief, how much will this cost?

**TOP TRUMP**

(Beaming)

Billions upon billions!



**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

We don't *have* billions to spend on a wall! Who on earth is going to pay for it?

**TOP TRUMP**

(Pleased with himself)

The trees, your majesty, that'll learn 'em. They go ping because of all the money on them. I sent the invoice through the Treasurer not five minutes ago.

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

You what?!

*Enter the WHITE RABBIT, all of a fluster.*

**WHITE RABBIT**

Your majesty, your majesty! Urgent message from the Treasurer, ma'am, she says-

*Enter Treasurer UNO, in a swirl of rage, brandishing an invoice. The WHITE RABBIT hops off.*

**UNO**

HEARTS!!! What is the meaning of this?!

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

Treasurer Uno, so good to see you, can I get you some te-

**TOP TRUMP**

TEAPOTS! I told you!

**UNO**

I don't care for tea, I care for this ridiculous invoice for... for a wall?! Charged to TREES!?

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

I can explain, Treasurer, please let me just-

**TOP TRUMP**

(In a Nigel Farage fury)

Oh I can explain! There's a whole host of noisy objects and animals STEALTHILY creeping towards the palace gardens pinging and bonging and clanging. It's a disgrace! It's an abomination!

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

You do realise we live in a land where caterpillars smoke pipes and flowers sing songs?

**TOP TRUMP**

Preposterous! You wait and see, this wall will-

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

We're not building a wall.

**TOP TRUMP**

TWENTY FEET HIGH, I say, TWENTY FEET HIGH!

*TOP TRUMP picks up his bricks and storms off, intolerantly.*

**UNO**

I should hope I don't hear any more of this, Hearts, this is a complete travesty.

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

My lady Uno, I assure you this is not my position. Baron von Top Trump has overstepped his mark.

**UNO**

I should hope that's all there is to it: I would hate for Count Pokémon Trading Cards to hear about this...

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

Please, Uno, there's no need to involve the Count. We left him quietly behind several years ago in the playground.

**UNO**

Then don't push me, Hearts. After all, you know what they say about houses made of cards...

*She mimes blowing one over.*

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

Begging your pardon, but aren't you a card as well?

**UNO**

Just watch your step, Hearts, otherwise you might find yourself shooting the moon.

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

That would mean I win.

**UNO**

I said it threateningly!

*UNO storms off. The QUEEN sighs, and then remembers her baking.*

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

Oh, the tarts!

*She hurries off.*

OUTLES  
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## *Scene 7: Making a Mockery of Things*

*Enter the DODO and CHESHIRE CAT*

### **DODO**

Okay, Cheshire, I think I'm getting the hang of this now. So Baron von Top Trump is trying to build a wall! And that's what makes the Queen go all "head-chop-happy"?

### **CHESHIRE CAT**

Not quite that, Dodo. You're forgetting an important aspect of the plot: the Knaves! Look, here they come now!

### **DODO**

How incredibly convenient!

*Exit DODO and CHESHIRE CAT. Enter the KNAVES with the MOCKING TURTLE with a bag over its head.*

### **KNAVE OF DIAMONDS**

Drop him here, boys!

*They throw the MOCKING TURTLE to the ground.*

### **KNAVE OF HEARTS**

It's no use, boss, he's not talking, see.

### **KNAVE OF DIAMONDS**

Not talking, eh? Sounds like we'll just have to wring it out of him. Hey, turtle-

### **KNAVE OF CLUBS**

Er, boss?

### **KNAVE OF DIAMONDS**

What is it, Clubs? We haven't got all day, see.

### **KNAVE OF CLUBS**

Well, er, Spades and I were talking, see, and-

### **KNAVE OF HEARTS**

Spades was talkin'?

**KNAVE OF CLUBS**

Well, waving his arms in a sorta interpretive dance kinda way: it was actually highly stimulatn'.

*KNAVE OF SPADES nods.*

**KNAVES OF CLUBS**

But anyway, boss, we were wonderin': didn't we already turn the Mock Turtle into soup? I recall eatin' Mock Turtle Soup, see, as does Spades, right?

*KNAVE OF SPADES nods.*

**KNAVE OF CLUBS**

So, yeah, we were kinda confused as to who or what we're interrogatin' now, since we don't really want to annoy a ghost or a zombie or some such occultish bein', if you get what I'm sayin'.

**KNAVE OF DIAMONDS**

I get your drift, Clubs, and you're right: we did turn the Mock Turtle into soup -- and fine tasty soup it was -- 'cause he'd told us all we needed to know, see. But we know the tarts are tasty but we don't know how to get at them. That sort of information is highly guarded, see.

**KNAVE OF CLUBS**

Then who's this?

**KNAVE OF DIAMONDS**

The only other Turtle worth interrogatin': the MOCKING TURTLE.

*The bag is removed from the head of the MOCKING TURTLE dramatically. He is unimpressed.*

**MOCKING TURTLE**

You call this a kidnapping? My mother could kidnap better than this and she's 180!

**KNAVE OF HEARTS**

Quiet you!

*KNAVE OF HEARTS hits the MOCKING TURTLE.*

**MOCKING TURTLE**

Wow, that sure hurt. Where'd you learn to punch? A nursery?

**KNAVE OF HEARTS**

I'm a black belt! Take this-

**KNAVE OF DIAMONDS**

Calm yourself, Hearts, he's just trying to make you angry, see.

**MOCKING TURTLE**

Oh wow, so perceptive.

**KNAVE OF DIAMONDS**

Quiet you.

**MOCKING TURTLE**

Is that all you've got? Wow, I didn't realise I was being kidnapped by such *terrifying* individuals.

**KNAVE OF CLUBS**

Oi! Don't you be disrepectin' the boss or I'll-

**MOCKING TURTLE**

Oh, you'll what? Hit me? I hope your punch is better than this guy's.  
(*He points at HEARTS*)

**KNAVE OF HEARTS**

Enough of this, show 'im who's boss, Clubs!

*KNAVE OF CLUBS hits the MOCKING TURTLE.*

**MOCKING TURTLE**

(*With all the sarcasm*)  
Oh wow, I am so in pain.

*KNAVE OF CLUBS hits the MOCKING TURTLE.*

**MOCKING TURTLE**

Are you trying to interrogate me or caress me?

*KNAVE OF CLUBS hits the MOCKING TURTLE*

**MOCKING TURTLE**

Pathetic.

*KNAVE OF CLUBS moves to hit the MOCKING TURTLE again but DIAMONDS holds up a hand, infuriated.*

**KNAVE OF DIAMONDS**

It's not working.

**MOCKING TURTLE**

Ooh, look who's been to 'Stating the Obvious' school.

**KNAVE OF DIAMONDS**

Would you *be quiet*? It's impossible to think with you constantly talking!

**MOCKING TURTLE**

Oh, you were thinking? I thought you were just constipated.

**KNAVE OF DIAMONDS**

Why I oughtta...

*The KNAVE OF DIAMONDS starts rolling up his sleeves but the KNAVE OF SPADES steps forward and whispers something in DIAMONDS's ear.*

**KNAVE OF DIAMONDS**

What? Are you sure?

*The KNAVE OF SPADES nods.*

**KNAVE OF DIAMONDS**

Very well... Clubs, Hearts, stand back.

*They stand back and the MOCKING TURTLE laughs as the KNAVE OF SPADES stands behind him.*

**MOCKING TURTLE**

Well *now* I'm scared. What are you going to do, be strong and silent at me until I talk?

*The KNAVE OF SPADES says nothing, but takes out his shovel. The TURTLE laughs again.*

**MOCKING TURTLE**

Oh, so *that's* why they call you spades? SO original!

*The KNAVE OF SPADES smacks the MOCKING TURTLE with the shovel.*

**MOCKING TURTLE**

That was it? You hit like a pork farmer!

**KNAVE OF SPADES**

*(In the most outrageous but understandable accent possible)*

Very appropriate: you stink like a pig!

*Everyone is shocked by SPADES' ability to speak. The MOCKING TURTLE is rattled by the insult.*

**MOCKING TURTLE**

That's all you've got? Pfft, you're the saddest being ever created.

**KNAVE OF SPADES**

If you do not count all the ones you've dated.

*MOCKING TURTLE is visibly more rattled.*

**MOCKING TURTLE**

Um, well, um... you... you make me want to puke.

**KNAVE OF SPADES**

And you, my friend, make me think somebody already did.

*MOCKING TURTLE is very very very rattled.*

**MOCKING TURTLE**

Um, um, well... er... YOU SMELL.

**KNAVE OF SPADES**

Yes, and what I smell is a scared little turtle.

*MOCKING TURTLE is scared as SPADES looms over.*

**KNAVE OF SPADES**

Talk.

*The MOCKING TURTLE breaks.*

**MOCKING TURTLE**

Okay! Okay! I'll tell you what you want to know! The Queen will take her tarts out of the oven and leave them by the window in the Royal Kitchen to cool. That's when they're unguarded, that's when they're weakest. That's when you'll want to strike.



*DIAMONDS walks back over, impressed.*

**KNAVE OF DIAMONDS**

Nicely played, my friend! How'd you learn such fancy wordplay?

*The KNAVE OF SPADES shrugs.*

**KNAVE OF DIAMONDS**

Fair enough. Now this turtle's told us all we need to know, boys, how do you feel about trying MOCKING TURTLE SOUP?

**MOCKING TURTLE**

*(Sadly)*

No, no, it'll only taste bitter.

**KNAVE OF DIAMONDS**

That's for us to find out. Clubs, Spades, take 'im away! Hearts: find my good pair of turtle crackers!

*They exit, dragging off the MOCKING TURTLE, sobbing.*

## *Scene 8: Constructive Criticism*

*Enter Baron von TOP TRUMP, grumbling loudly about teapots.*

### **TOP TRUMP**

Twenty feet high, I say, that will keep those noisy bastards out... Cows go bong, what sort of ridiculous cows do that?! It's preposterous! Preposterous I say!

*Enter MAD HATTER, MARCH HARE, and the DORMOUSE, immediately rushing to surround TOP TRUMP, complete with tea paraphernalia.*

### **MAD HATTER**

Sorry, you called for preposterous?

### **TOP TRUMP**

Oh, Hatter, good to see you  
(It's not)  
How... how are you doing?

### **MAD HATTER**

Me, Baron? So considerate of you! I'm well, Baron, I'm well... but how are you, my friend? Tell me about... whatever it is you do...

### **TOP TRUMP**

I'm the Agricultural Advisor to the Queen, you know!

### **MAD HATTER**

I know.

### **TOP TRUMP**

Well there are teapots jibbering and trees ping-pong. It's horrendously noisy! No more, I say! We're building a wall: twenty feet high!

### **MAD HATTER**

A wall? Hare, did you hear that, he says he's building a wall.

### **MARCH HARE**

I heard him, Hatter, a wall!

### **DORMOUSE**

Pass the tea would you?

*HATTER passes the tea.*

**TOP TRUMP**

Tea? It's hardly time for tea, is it? Not with the teapot crisis!

**MAD HATTER**

Do you know what time it is?

**TOP TRUMP**

It's... well it's late afternoon, I'd expect!

**MAD HATTER**

(Looking at stopwatch)

That's not what time I make it. One minute to six, I would say.

**DORMOUSE**

It's six o'clock! Time for tea...

**MAD HATTER**

Quite right, Dormouse, quite right. Take a cup, Baron.

**TOP TRUMP**

I'd rather n-

**MARCH HARE**

(Forcefully)

Take. A. Cup.

*TOP TRUMP takes the cup, warily.*

**MAD HATTER**

That's better, Top Trump, so much better! Now about this wall...

**TOP TRUMP**

Yes! It will be twenty feet high, with razor sharp wire at the top to stop trees climbing in-

**MAD HATTER**

Uh uh uh, I was talking, Top Trump. You need to talk less and listen more.

**TOP TRUMP**

But-

**MARCH HARE**

Tea! Drink!

**TOP TRUMP**

But!

**MARCH HARE**

(Slamming his fist on the table/ground/otherwise making a loud noise)

DRINK THE GOD-DAMNED TEA!!!

*There's silence, and TOP TRUMP reluctantly takes a sip of the tea.*

**MAD HATTER**

That's better. Now, Baron, I know you have your heart set on building this wall, but I'd like to give you some... constructive criticism. See, it seems the Queen isn't very keen on your idea-

**TOP TRUMP**

How do you know about that?

**MARCH HARE**

(Menacingly)

Keep drinking.

**MAD HATTER**

I have my sources, Baron. Now your wall would be all well and good, but I need you to redirect your constructive resources... elsewhere.

**TOP TRUMP**

Elsewhere? Where do you mean?

*Enter the ACE OF SPADES*

**ACE OF SPADES**

The new expansion of the Royal Gardens into the Mushroom Meadows: the planning has just been approved by her Majesty!

**TOP TRUMP**

Ace? Are you in with these nutters?

**MAD HATTER**

Do I look like a squirrel? I'm a Hatter not a nutter!

**MARCH HARE**

Quite right! And I'm a hare not a squirrel!

**DORMOUSE**

And I'm a dormouse not a hare!

**MAD HATTER**

And I'm a hatter not a dormouse, but to answer your question, Top Trump, the Ace of Spades here is someone I would consider... a friend.

**TOP TRUMP**

So what... what do you want from me?

**ACE OF SPADES**

You, my friend, are going to move all your construction crews and all the materials you've already so... generously purchased, and move them to this site, where you're going to start building.

**TOP TRUMP**

And what exactly will I be building?

**ACE OF SPADES**

You'll be building- hang on, I've got a call. Hatter, you've got this?

(Without waiting for an answer)

Clive, my main man! How are you? Good, good...

*He wanders offstage, having a conversation.*

**MAD HATTER**

*(Irritated)*

I'll show you a main man...

**DORMOUSE**

Hatter?

**MAD HATTER**

Ah, yes. Baron, you'll be building exactly according to my plans. Hare?

*The MARCH HARE throws top secret blueprints to TOP TRUMP.*

**MARCH HARE**

Follow the blueprints, and all shall be fine.

*TOP TRUMP reads the blueprints. His eyes widen.*

**TOP TRUMP**

What? Why... why would you build this?!

**MAD HATTER**

Do you know what time it is?

**DORMOUSE**

(Rocking back and forth)

Tea time! Tea time! Tea time!

**TOP TRUMP**

(Unnerved)

No. I won't do it. It's preposterous!

**MAD HATTER**

One moment: could we all change places? I want a clean cup...

*The DORMOUSE and MARCH HARE rush around and rearrange around TOP TRUMP with knives to his throat. The HATTER picks a clean cup from a place and pours some tea.*

**MAD HATTER**

That's better. Preposterous you were saying?

**TOP TRUMP**

Er, no, I said... er...

**MAD HATTER**

Take your time... we've got all the time in the world...

*TOP TRUMP eyes up the DORMOUSE and HARE with knives to his throat and gives up.*

**TOP TRUMP**

Fine, fine, I'll do it.

**MAD HATTER**

That's better. Now we must be off... look at the time, it's six o'clock!

**DORMOUSE**

Six o'clock? Time for tea...

**MAD HATTER**

It's *always* time for tea... Come along.

*They all exit, leaving the baron dazed before he bumbles off himself.*

OUPLES  
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*Scene 9: All on a Summer's Day*

*Enter the QUEEN OF HEARTS and QUEEN OF DIAMONDS.*

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

I must say, Di, you were right. Getting back into baking really has helped take my mind off everything.

**QUEEN OF DIAMONDS**

Of course I'm right, Heartie, I am always right about this sort of thing.

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

Well quite indeed, Di. Though I really don't know what I'm to do about this whole Top Trump business.

**QUEEN OF DIAMONDS**

Oh don't worry about that, darling, think about the Bake-Off!

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

Yes, but-

**QUEEN OF DIAMONDS**

Top Trump will resolve himself, Heartie, don't you worry, but the Great Wonderland Bake Off won't! The world needs your tarts, Heartie!

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

Di, I know you like my tarts but-

**QUEEN OF DIAMONDS**

I don't just *like* your tarts, darling, I *adore* them.

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

Yes, adore, like, whatever, look I can't just ignore Top Trump as he does goodness knows what with my administration.

**QUEEN OF DIAMONDS**

Oh Heartie, why haven't you just had him executed yet?

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

Executed? Top Trump? He's one of my most trusted advisors, Di, I couldn't just execute him. I don't execute anyone anyway, don't you recall?



**QUEEN OF DIAMONDS**

Yes, I recall your weakness.

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

(Outraged)

My *weakness*?

**QUEEN OF DIAMONDS**

Well come now, Heartie, you can't expect to hold a strong grip on your government if you're not prepared to make a little example here and there.

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

And by example you mean "beheading"?

**QUEEN OF DIAMONDS**

Exactly, darling! Beheading people is so much simpler than trying to talk things through, it's quicker and leaves more time for baking. And speaking of which, we really should get back to talking about the Bake-Off!

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

No, Di, no we shouldn't. Top Trump is a serious problem: I need to do something about him-

**QUEEN OF DIAMONDS**

Just chop his-

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

I AM NOT CHOPPING HIS HEAD OFF.

*There's a short pause.*

**QUEEN OF DIAMONDS**

Have you considered castration?

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

Di! I can't believe you!

**QUEEN OF DIAMONDS**

Oh come now, Heartie, this really isn't difficult. Are you honestly going to let a little matter such as this get in the way of my Bake-Off victory?

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

Your victory? I thought we were in this together.

**QUEEN OF DIAMONDS**

*(Backpedalling slightly)*

Of course we are, Heartie. Your victory is my victory, after all. Honestly, you are being silly.

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

No, no I don't think I am.

**QUEEN OF DIAMONDS**

Heartie, darling, come now.

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

No. I don't care to talk to someone who's simply *using* me for my tarts! No, I think I'm done talking to you. Be gone, Di.

**QUEEN OF DIAMONDS**

But Heartie!

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

Be gone!

*The QUEEN OF DIAMONDS is about to respond but thinks better of it. She throws her boa (she has a boa) over her shoulder, puts her nose in the air and storms off.*

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

...I do hope I did the right thing...

*Enter the MAD HATTER.*

**MAD HATTER**

Isn't that what we all hope? That we're doing the right thing, mm?

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

Hatter?

**MAD HATTER**

Oh yes, your majesty, the Royal Hatter, here at your service.

*HATTER bows deeply.*

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

Well, thank you Hatter, but I don't think I'm in the need of any hats being made right now.

**MAD HATTER**

In which case, I might offer my... secondary profession?

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

Secondary profession?

**MAD HATTER**

Advice. I'm very skilled with advice.

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

I see. Very well: my agricultural advisor is trying to single-handedly bankrupt this government and it will look like it's all my fault, I'm knee-deep in paperwork from that blasted Ace of Spades, my best friend was simply using me for my tarts, and my entire court is literally a pack of cards. What do you suggest, Hatter?

**MAD HATTER**

Mm, I'd suggest checking on your tarts.

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

That's most unhelpful.

**MAD HATTER**

Do you know what time it is?

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

Yes of course, my tarts still have another 10 minutes to cool.

**MAD HATTER**

(Checking the pocket watch)

Hmm, I disagree.

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

Well, 15 minutes depending on the temperature outside.

**MAD HATTER**

Quite. Your majesty, have you considered people are... taking advantage. While you sit about-

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

I am not sitting about!

**MAD HATTER**

Stand about, sure, whatever you like. Doing that in your... palace - the likes of Top Trump or Diamonds are... taking advantage of your good nature.

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

Taking advantage? No, Hatter, you must be mistaken. They're just eccentric.

**MAD HATTER**

You should really check on your tarts.

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

And anyway, what sort of accusation is that against Diamonds? She's royalty!

**MAD HATTER**

Indeed she is, and how much stress is she under?

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

Well, none, but that's only because she *executes* her way through all her problems.

**MAD HATTER**

And you'd do no such thing?

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

Of course not. Nobody deserves that.

**MAD HATTER**

Nobody deserves to die? That's a noble rule you've got there...

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

It is. And I'm not going to break it.

**MAD HATTER**

Of course you're not.

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

I beg your pardon?

**MAD HATTER**

I really would like to know what time it is.

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

Stop asking about the time! You're absolutely no use at giving advice at all, you know that. Nothing you've said has been remotely helpful or relevant: going on about the time and my tarts - why, I ought to-

*Enter the WHITE RABBIT at velocity.*

**WHITE RABBIT**

Your highness! Your highness!

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

Oh what is it now?!

**WHITE RABBIT**

Your tarts, ma'am! They've been stolen!

*The QUEEN is shocked! The MAD HATTER grins.*

**MAD HATTER**

I told you you should have checked on the tarts.

*HATTER and WHITE RABBIT exit, as enter the KNAVE OF CLUBS and KNAVE OF HEARTS, with the QUEEN OF DIAMONDS captured.*

**KNAVE OF HEARTS**

Your majesty! We caught the Queen here stealing your tarts!

**QUEEN OF DIAMONDS**

I was doing no such-

**KNAVE OF CLUBS**

Quiet!

**KNAVE OF HEARTS**

She was in your kitchen, sneaking about your windowsill, and we caught her midway through scoffing the lot of them!

**QUEEN OF DIAMONDS**

I never-

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

Di! How could you!

**QUEEN OF DIAMONDS**

But I-

*Enter ACE OF SPADES, carrying a pile of paperwork. The KNAVES and QUEEN OF DIAMONDS protesting should continue.*

**ACE OF SPADES**

Your majesty! Your majesty! Good to see you, how are you? Glad to hear, I'm fine. I need you to look through this paperwork-

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

Ace, I'm in the middle-

**ACE OF SPADES**

It's incredibly urgent, your majesty, the fate of Wonderland hangs in the balance of-

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

Spades!

**ACE OF SPADES**

Yes, yes, good, here you go. 5 minutes should be enough time right?

**KNAVE OF HEARTS**

Your majesty, the thief!

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

Spades, I can't d-

**ACE OF SPADES**

*(On his bluetooth thingy)*

Deborah! Hi! How are you? Good, good, yes, yes, the Queen's just finishing it now. Aren't you, your Majesty? Oh she's a doll-

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

I AM ROYALTY!

*Enter the FOUR OF CLUBS, NINE OF SPADES and SIX OF HEARTS, at velocity. The ACE OF SPADES talking on his bluetooth and the protestations of DIAMONDS and the KNAVES should continue.*

**FOUR OF SPADES**

Your Majestful Highness, we have determined it! We've determined it, yes!

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

I can't-

**NINE OF CLUBS**

It was all so simple, Queenful Hearts, we just had a race and then the winner of the race after ten innings was crowned the Card Tsar and proceeded to oversee a tournament-

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

Please, can you-

**SIX OF HEARTS**

Yes your majesty, we had to demolish ten acres of the Infinite Forest to make space for the Colosseum.

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

You what?!

*Enter Baron von TOP TRUMP, arguing with Treasurer UNO loudly about the bill she's waving in her hand. The other bickering should still continue.*

**UNO**

HEARTS! THIS IS THE LAST STRAW! This bill for ten billion billion- it's a disgrace! I can't just make money appear out of thin air? Didn't you even read the budget?!

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

Bill? Ten billion? What?!

**TOP TRUMP**

Oh put a sock in it, Uno, it's entirely necessary so go and shake the trees upside down for the money, or- or-

**UNO**

Or what?!

**TOP TRUMP**

War! War I say! War on trees!

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

YOU CAN'T DECLARE WAR ON TREES, TOP TRUMP, I AM QUEEN!

**TOP TRUMP**

Well you're obviously too busy with this... rabble.

**UNO**

War?! War?! We can't afford a war!

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

No, I'm-, I'm just-

*Now very in sequence:*

**UNO**

Oh make your mind up!

**TOP TRUMP**

You're showing no power at all!

**FOUR OF SPADES**

You're not even listening!

**SIX OF HEARTS**

We travelled so long!

**NINE OF CLUBS**

Did exactly what you said!

**ACE OF SPADES**

Good grief, aren't you done yet?

**QUEEN OF DIAMONDS**

I can't believe you're accusing me...

**ALL (Exc. KNAVES, and QUEEN OF HEARTS)**

This is pathetic!

**FREEZE!**

**Song: "Off With Their Heads!"**

In which the Queen laments the stupidity of everyone surrounding her and eventually decides that if they think she's pathetic maybe she'll have to give them something to worry about. Off with their heads! Something similar to *Slipping* from Dr Horrible would be very appropriate.

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

(Incensed)

**RABBIT!**



*Enter WHITE RABBIT*

**WHITE RABBIT**

You called, your majesty?

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

Arrange their executions.

**WHITE RABBIT**

Sorry, your majesty, there are a lot of people here, who are we executing exactly?

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

All of them! *Off with their heads!*

**WHITE RABBIT**

Your majesty!

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

*OFF WITH THEIR HEADS!!!*

*The QUEEN OF HEARTS sweeps off to mass hysteria from the others who are escorted off by the grinning KNAVES and the WHITE RABBIT.*

*Enter the CHESHIRE CAT, grinning, and the DODO, scared.*

**DODO**

Gosh, Cheshire, I didn't realise it would be like this.

**CHESHIRE CAT**

Why of course, Dodo, that's what makes it so delectable. Now, do you know what time it is?

**DODO**

You're beginning to sound like the Hatter...

**CHESHIRE CAT**

It's the interval, Dodo. Now come now, I don't want to queue for my gin...

*Exeunt*

END OF ACT ONE

# Act 2

## Scene 1: Alice!

*On stage are the TWO OF SPADES, EIGHT OF SPADES and the FIVE OF SPADES, painting white roses red.*

*Enter ALICE, in all of a daze, holding a DRINK ME bottle and a large key.*

### ALICE

Curiouser and curiouser... Oh how glad I am that I held onto the key before drinking that peculiar bottle: imagine the trouble I could have gotten myself into should I have left it on the table.

*She looks around the stage.*

### ALICE

And just look at this garden. My, this garden truly is beautiful, but the flowers are so very curious -- and not to mention the gardeners! If I didn't know better -- and I'm no longer sure that I do -- I would say they look like playing cards!

### TWO OF SPADES

Hey! We *are* playing cards thank you very much!

### ALICE

Oh, I'm sorry, I hadn't realised that you could talk!

### EIGHT OF SPADES

Well we can, and apology accepted. Now clear off!

### ALICE

*(Aside)*

What a peculiar place where the gardeners should order round the visitors!

### FIVE OF SPADES

Hey! What do you mean "peculiar"? We're respected professionals doing a job we've been hired to do, we don't just take orders from passers-by!

**ALICE**

Oh, I'm sorry, I thought I said that thought in my head but it must have slipped out of my head through my mouth. I am sorry.

**TWO OF SPADES**

So you should be. Now clear off! We've got to get these painted before the Queen comes by!

**ALICE**

The Queen? The Queen lives a long way from here, I should imagine. Buckingham Palace is in London and I can't see Big Ben on the horizon.

**FIVE OF SPADES**

Do you always talk such drivel?

**ALICE**

Often.

**EIGHT OF SPADES**

Bloody hell... The Queen of Hearts, she lives in the palace! She ordered we repaint all the roses from white to red before she gets back otherwise it'll be... well. You know.

**ALICE**

I'm not sure I do.

**TWO OF SPADES**

Come on, Eight, enough talking more painting. We've not got time for this.

**FIVE OF SPADES**

Right you are, Two, come along!

*EIGHT OF SPADES, FIVE OF SPADES and TWO OF SPADES exit, leaving ALICE a little lost.*

**ALICE**

Oh my, this isn't what I expected when I saw that White Rabbit at all...

*Enter WHITE RABBIT at velocity.*

**WHITE RABBIT**

I'm late! I'm late! For a very important date!

*He runs across the stage and off the other side.*

**ALICE**

Wait! Come back!

*ALICE runs off after the WHITE RABBIT but is interrupted by the CHESHIRE CAT and the DODO.*

**CHESHIRE CAT**

*(Delighted)*

Alice!

**ALICE**

...Dinah?

**DODO**

What's a Dinah?

**ALICE**

My cat, she's much like this one only she doesn't talk and grins much less widely, if ever: actually, she's seldom known to grin at all now I think about it.

**CHESHIRE CAT**

Yes, yes, I think the story's much more on track now, Dodo.

**DODO**

Hardly. Shouldn't she be about ten feet tall?

**ALICE**

Ahem! It's quite rude to talk about a lady's height in front of her.

**CHESHIRE CAT**

Yes, you're right... perhaps she needs to be lengthened?

**ALICE**

I assure you I am the exact height that I wish to be, thank you.

**DODO**

Well bother.

**CHESHIRE CAT**

Quite. Perhaps we should acquire some of that cake?

**DODO**

Oh yes, good call, Cheshire. I do believe I saw some back this way.

*DODO and CHESHIRE exit, dropping a Great Wonderland Bake-Off poster, leaving ALICE perplexed.*

**ALICE**

What a curious place this is... and I dare say it may only get stranger. Oh my, what's this?

*She picks up the poster.*

**ALICE**

Great Wonderland Bake-Off? Entrants to report to... House of Cards... Well, I certainly knew how to make a sponge cake, so I suppose I shall enter. But where to find some flour?

*She wonders and wanders off, pondering the specifics of Wonderland-based ingredient acquisition.*

*Scene 2: Sock it to 'em!*

*Enter the KNAVES with the SOCK TURTLE with a bag over its head. The KNAVE OF HEARTS is holding the Queen of Hearts' tarts.*

**KNAVE OF DIAMONDS**

Drop him here, boys!

*They throw the SOCK TURTLE to the ground.*

**KNAVE OF HEARTS**

It's no use, boss, he's not talking, see.

**KNAVE OF DIAMONDS**

Not talking, eh? Sounds like we'll just have to wring it out of him. Hey, turtle-

**KNAVE OF CLUBS**

Er, boss?

**KNAVE OF DIAMONDS**

What is it *now* Clubs? We've got work to be doing, see.

**KNAVE OF CLUBS**

Actually, I'm not sure I do see.

**KNAVE OF DIAMONDS**

Come again?

**KNAVE OF CLUBS**

Well we've got the tarts, haven't we?

**KNAVE OF HEARTS**

Right here, boss!

**KNAVE OF CLUBS**

Well exactly. Why are we interrogating another turtle?

**KNAVE OF DIAMONDS**

I wouldn't expect you to understand, Clubs, it's highly important that we interrogate every turtle in Wonderland. We've done the Mock Turtle, the Mocking Turtle, and we've still got the Clock Turtle, the Dock Turtle...

**KNAVE OF HEARTS**

The Cock Turtle?

**KNAVE OF DIAMONDS**

No, we're leaving him out so we can gain a PG Certificate.

**KNAVE OF CLUBS**

Ok, I get that we're interrogating... the Lock Turtle? But what *are* we going to learn?

**KNAVE OF DIAMONDS**

Well how should I know? That's why we're interrogating 'em, see. Now Hearts, if you will?

**KNAVE OF HEARTS**

Sock Turtle! Tell us your story!

*HEARTS whips off the bag from the head of the SOCK TURTLE but (gasp) it's the MAD HATTER all along!*

**MAD HATTER**

Surprise!

*The KNAVES immediately go defensive.*

**KNAVE OF DIAMONDS**

Hatter! So... er...

**KNAVE OF HEARTS**

Good to see you?

**KNAVE OF DIAMONDS**

Yes. That.

**MAD HATTER**

Of course it's good to see me, and, mm, I think a celebration is in order, wouldn't you say?

**KNAVE OF CLUBS**

Celebration? How come?

**MAD HATTER**

Well you outsmarted the Queen of Hearts and stole her tarts -- all on a summer's day.  
I'd say that warrants a celebration.

**KNAVE OF HEARTS**

You're right! We should eat these here tarts!

**MAD HATTER**

(Snapped)

No!

**KNAVE OF DIAMONDS**

No? Hatter, why, I didn't think you were so defensive of these... tarts.

**MAD HATTER**

I'm not...

(Composing himself)

Do you know what time it is?

**KNAVE OF CLUBS**

Quarter past eight.

**MAD HATTER**

(Checking his pocket watch)

Close enough. And that, mm, that makes it time for tea.

*Enter the DORMOUSE and MARCH HARE, sporting many cups of tea. The KNAVES are understandably alarmed.*

**MARCH HARE**

Come on, come on, take a cup, take a cup.

**DORMOUSE**

(Excited)

Tea time! Tea time!

**KNAVE OF CLUBS**

(To Diamonds)

I'm not sure about this, boss.

**KNAVE OF DIAMONDS**

Yeah, I'm not either. Hatter, see, this is awfully suspicious. I think we might well take the Tarts and be on our way.



**MARCH HARE**

What, and deny our kind invitation to tea? The insult!

**DORMOUSE**

(About to burst into tears)

You don't want... you don't want tea?

**KNAVE OF DIAMONDS**

No, no, we don't... we don't want...

*DORMOUSE turns puppy dog eyes up to eleven.*

**KNAVE OF DIAMONDS**

We can't... we...

*DORMOUSE starts sniffing.*

**KNAVE OF DIAMONDS**

Oh fine, one cup. But that's all.

**KNAVE OF HEARTS**

Boss!

**KNAVE OF DIAMONDS**

Oh look at her, Hearts, we can't break her... well, her heart.

**KNAVE OF HEARTS**

I suppose not. Very well, one cup.

**MAD HATTER**

Splendid. Splendid. Well, what are you waiting for? Drink up!

*Tentatively, everyone takes a long and suspicious sip from their cups.*

**MAD HATTER**

There, that wasn't so bad, was it?

*In unison, the KNAVE OF DIAMONDS, KNAVE OF HEARTS and KNAVE OF CLUBS fall to the ground unconscious. The MAD HATTER collects the tarts from the hands of the KNAVE OF HEARTS. The KNAVE OF SPADES is unharmed.*

**MARCH HARE**

Poison, Hatter?

**MAD HATTER**

Venom of a Jabberwock. Should be fatal to all who drink it... except... um... You, why aren't you dead?

*The KNAVE OF SPADES shrugs.*

**KNAVE OF SPADES**

I have spent the last few years building an immunity to Jabberwock venom.

**MAD HATTER**

Huh. That's quite impressive. Almost impressive enough to let you live.

*KNAVE OF SPADES smiles. He is promptly hit round the head by the HATTER and falls unconscious.*

**MAD HATTER**

But not impressive enough.

**MARCH HARE**

Good one, Hatter!

**MAD HATTER**

Yes... You could say that.

**DORMOUSE**

What now?

**MARCH HARE**

Yes, what is the plan? You've got the tarts, you've got Top Trump building... the *thing*. What's next?

**MAD HATTER**

Isn't it obvious?

**MARCH HARE**

Um...

**MAD HATTER**

Well look at the time, Hare, it's nearly six o'clock!

**DORMOUSE**

Time for tea!!

**MAD HATTER**

Indeed, indeed, and we rather haven't a moment to lose...

*Exeunt.*



### *Scene 3: It's all in the Execution*

*Enter the SIX OF HEARTS, NINE OF CLUBS, holding a baby, and the FOUR OF SPADES, all chained up and heading toward a chopping block. The ACE OF SPADES stands there, wearing an executioner's hood and holding an executioner's axe. None are too pleased to be there.*

**SIX OF HEARTS**

Well this sucks.

**NINE OF CLUBS**

You can say that again! I didn't vote for the Queen for this!

**FOUR OF SPADES**

You didn't vote for her at all!

**NINE OF CLUBS**

Well then why is she Queen?

**SIX OF HEARTS**

Luck of the draw, I imagine.

**ACE OF SPADES**

Hey, you lot, do quieten down. You're making this harder than it needs to be.

**FOUR OF SPADES**

Quieten down? Or what?

**NINE OF CLUBS**

Yeah, what are you gonna do? Execute us?

**ACE OF SPADES**

Look, I don't like this any more than you do.

**FOUR OF SPADES**

You don't like it? We're the ones here about to have our heads departed from our necks, if you hadn't noticed!

**ACE OF SPADES**

It's not like I'm enjoying it. I used to be the Queen's top-paid executive, you know, and now I'm reduced to... to...

(Drama)

A public sector employee!

**FOUR OF SPADES**

Oh boo-hoo!

**ACE OF SPADES**

It's horrible... seven day contracts... my pay limited by the government... the uncertainty with international relations...

**SIX OF HEARTS**

Oh wow, your life is so hard.

**ACE OF SPADES**

I know, I know! And she took away Deborah!

**NINE OF CLUBS**

Deborah? What's a Deborah?

**ACE OF SPADES**

My secretary. Now I have to organise my *own* calendar, arrange my *own* meetings and...

(Shocked)

Do my *own* laundry!

**CARDS**

Eww...

**ACE OF SPADES**

Anyway, enough about you, let's get on with it. One at a time, up to the block.

**NINE OF CLUBS**

Wait, what about Rules of Bridge here?

**ACE OF SPADES**

What?

**NINE OF CLUBS**

(Holding up the baby)

Rules of Bridge!

**ACE OF SPADES**

Oh, er, well I don't really know what to do with that... don't we just put it to the side or something?

*Enter ALICE!*

**ALICE**

Well I found many flowers, but no flour of which to speak, and I do believe this isn't the right way to the palace at all. Oh, what's going on here?

**ACE OF SPADES**

(Relieved)

Oh, here we go, you can hold onto the baby.

**ALICE**

The baby?

*NINE OF CLUBS hands ALICE the baby.*

**NINE OF CLUBS**

The baby.

**ALICE**

Very well, I'll hold your baby, though I'm not sure why I'd-

*Okay, so this next bit. The WHITE RABBIT will enter and talk to ALICE, distracting her from the silent / mimed execution of the 3 cards behind them.*

**WHITE RABBIT**

I'm late! I'm late! For a very important-

*WHITE RABBIT runs into ALICE at speed and falls to the ground.*

**ALICE**

Heavens, are you quite alright?

**WHITE RABBIT**

(Dazed)

I'm late for... for a date...

**ALICE**

I didn't see any fruit around here, I'm afraid.

**WHITE RABBIT**

No, no, a date! I met a lovely bunny on Tinder and I'm supposed to be meeting her soon.

**ALICE**

I'm sure she will understand if you're a little late.

**WHITE RABBIT**

Oh, I don't know, she'll probably just give me the CHOP.

*ACE OF SPADES beheads the FOUR OF SPADES*

**ALICE**

Oh, I don't know much about courtship, but if she isn't understanding she's surely hardly someone you'd want to marry.

**WHITE RABBIT**

Well I was hardly thinking about marrying...

**ALICE**

Well what else would you do with someone you met on Tinder?

**WHITE RABBIT**

How old are you?

**ALICE**

Eleven years old!

**WHITE RABBIT**

Then yes, yes, I'd marry her.

**ALICE**

Oh good! See, it should all be well. Are you taking her to a restaurant? Though what would a rabbit eat at a restaurant? Salad, I suppose, though maybe a steak or a pork CHOP?

*ACE OF SPADES beheads NINE OF CLUBS*

**WHITE RABBIT**

I prefer pasta myself. But look, I really must be on my way.

**ALICE**

Well if you're sure. Say, I don't suppose you know what I should do with this baby? I didn't really expect to become a mother today.

**WHITE RABBIT**

See, this is why you should always use protect- I mean, er, maybe just hang onto it for now?

**ALICE**

Hang onto it? Very well I suppose.

**WHITE RABBIT**

Very well indeed. Now I must be going. CHOP CHOP

*ACE OF SPADES beheads SIX OF HEARTS. The WHITE RABBIT exits. ALICE turns round to see the pile of executed bodies and the ACE OF SPADES not looking very happy.*

**ALICE**

Oh my, what happened here? It looks none too pleasant to me.

**ACE OF SPADES**

Don't blame me, I'm just doing my job! Queen's orders.

**ALICE**

Well of course you shouldn't be blamed for your job, but what kind of Queen would order this? One that doesn't like the cards, I should imagine actually. Oh never mind, I suppose, but what am I supposed to do with this baby? Its mother is little use to it without a head.

**ACE OF SPADES**

That's not my job to worry about, I'm not being paid enough to deal with nurseries for babies on top of everything else.

**ALICE**

Oh well I shan't bother asking you any more then. Though I don't suppose you could point me to the palace?

**ACE OF SPADES**

(Pointing)

That way. Now go away already would you, or it'll be off with your head as well!

**ALICE**

Well I shouldn't want that, I'm rather attached to my head. Good evening!

*Exit ALICE. The ACE OF SPADES is left to drag off the bodies of the cards.*



## ACE OF SPADES

Manual labour... why me? Why me?

*Exeunt*

OUTLES  
Oxford University Light Entertainment Society

#### *Scene 4: Something about Heads*

*Enter TWO OF SPADES, FIVE OF SPADES, and the EIGHT OF SPADES, putting the final spots of red paint on some white roses.*

##### **TWO OF SPADES**

There, I think we've just about done it. One thousand, three hundred and thirty seven white roses all painted red. No beheadings for us today, I might think!

##### **FIVE OF SPADES**

Though she might arrange our executions for tomorrow.

##### **TWO OF SPADES**

What?

##### **FIVE OF SPADES**

Well she's got a lot of executions booked for today, so if she did want to execute us, I imagine she'd do it tomorrow anyway.

##### **EIGHT OF SPADES**

Yes, but she's not going to execute us. We painted all one thousand, three hundred and thirty seven white roses in the garden red: she's got to be happy with that.

*Enter DODO and CHESHIRE CAT, with a piece of cake that says "EAT ME".*

##### **CHESHIRE CAT**

No no, Dodo, I'm sure she's around here somewhere. She can't have gotten far, she's only little after all.

##### **DODO**

Yes, but Wonderland is a big place. It's easy to wander off while wandering and wondering in Wonderland.

##### **CHESHIRE CAT**

I bet you can't say that ten times.

##### **DODO**

(Good luck)

Wander off while wandering and wondering in Wonderland. Wander off while wandering and wondering in Wonderland. Wander off while wandering and wondering in Wonderland. Wander off while wandering and wondering in

Wonderland. Wander off while wandering and wondering in Wonderland. Wander off while wandering and wondering in Wonderland. Wander off while wandering and wondering in Wonderland. Wander off while wandering and wondering in Wonderland. Wander off while wandering and wondering in Wonderland. Wander off while wandering and wondering in Wonderland.

**EIGHT OF SPADES**

Hey! Can't you twist your tongue somewhere else?

**DODO**

I beg your pardon?

**FIVE OF SPADES**

We're awaiting the Queen, we can't just have you babbling around.

**TWO OF SPADES**

Yeah, she doesn't like babblers!

**EIGHT OF SPADES**

Not at all. It'll be off with your heads I imagine.

**CHESHIRE CAT**

Off with our heads? And who are you to say that?

**EIGHT OF SPADES**

I'm the Eight of Spades.

**CHESHIRE CAT**

The Ace of Spades? Well you've got seven two many spades on you if that's the case.

**EIGHT OF SPADES**

No, no, *Eight* of Spades. Now look, can't you see we're busy? We've just painted all the flowers in the Garden-

**DODO**

What? All one thousand, three hundred and thirty eight of them?

**EIGHT OF SPADES**

Yeah, all one thousand, three hundred and thirty seven- wait.

**TWO OF SPADES**

How many did you say? How many white roses?

**DODO**

One thousand, three hundred and thirty eight. They said so during the Chelsea Flower Show.

**FIVE OF SPADES**

Wait, but you said we painted one thousand, three hundred and thirty seven... Which means somewhere out there there must be... one... last...

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

(Screamed from offstage)

A WHITE ROSE!!!!

**SPADESES**

Crap.

*Enter QUEEN OF HEARTS, in a fury. She is dressed far more aggressively **red** than she was before, and is clutching a white rose in her hand. CHESHIRE and DODO move to put the CARDS between themselves and the QUEEN.*

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

(In a blind fury)

You blithering incompetent imbeciles. You had one simple job and that was to paint every white rose in this garden red by the time I came round. You had one job but you couldn't even manage that! What do you have to say for yourselves?

**TWO OF SPADES**

(Blithering)

Your highness, if I may, we must have missed that one flower, but surely it's not... um...

**FIVE OF SPADES**

It must have been hiding behind another flower, nobody would have noticed it, and... er...

**EIGHT OF SPADES**

It's just one flower?

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

(Furious)

Just one flower?! Just one flower?! It's not the flower it's the PRINCIPLE of the matter! Do you think just because I'm Queen you can try and pass things by me? Take advantage of my good nature to slack off and bring this kingdom down?! I don't think so! Off with their heads!

**TWO OF SPADES**

But-

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

OFF WITH THEIR HEADS! RABBIT! RABBIT!

*The RABBIT does not enter.*

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

Where is that blasted rabbit?

**DODO**

If I may, your majesty, he appeared to be rather late for a date.

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

A date? He's meant to be organising executions! Off with his head!

**CHESHIRE CAT**

And who exactly is going to organise *his* execution?

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

Congratulations, you're promoted.

**CHESHIRE CAT**

I'm not under your emp-

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

Execute the lot of them. All the gardeners, the White Rabbit, and this wretched flightless bird.

**DODO**

What?!

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

Off with their heads, cat! OFF WITH THEIR HEADS!

**CHESHIRE CAT**

(Shrugging)

I guess so... Come on, you heard the woman...

**DODO**

Wait, Cheshire, you're not seriously taking her up on this?

**CHESHIRE CAT**

(Grinning)

My dear Dodo, would you, in my situation, really disagree with Her Majesty?

**DODO**

(Looking at the glowering QoH)

Point taken. Yes yes, coming along!

*CHESHIRE CAT ushers the rest of them off the stage quickly.*

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

(Monologuing to the audience OR a song!)

Can you believe that cat? Questioning *my* authority! “Who’s going to execute the rabbit?”. It’ll be off with his head when he’s done executing those layabouts. And rightly so. Things are really starting to shape up round here...

No more pesky subjects with their stupid requests, no more irritating advisors with their bloody paperwork, and no more Top Trump and his incessant bigotry.

Ah, life sure is grand now in Wonderland. Di was right about executions after all... which reminds me, her trial is set this afternoon. Steal my tarts, will she? I’ll show her! Everyone will see her for what she is: a thief, and a liar. And then off with her head! Ha!

Though, I still can’t help but wonder... is this really the right way to keep order? Chopping off heads, left, right and centre... I mean, sure, it’s effective, but is that how I want to be known? The Queen of Hearts of the Bicycle Dynasty: blind fury who beheaded her entire kingdom?

It’s too late now though, some things just have to be done. To the trial! And after the trial: the Bake-Off!

**Song: “Off With Their Heads?”**

Possible reprise or some other song in which the Queen of Hearts ponders whether her current course of action is a good one

*Exit QUEEN OF HEARTS.*

## *Scene 5: Alice - Madness Returns*

*Enter ALICE, still carrying the baby.*

**ALICE**

Goodness, this still doesn't seem to be the bake-off at all. My, it seems whenever I try to find the palace I just end up further away. Perhaps if I try to not find the palace then I'll stumble across it after all.

*Enter MAD HATTER, MARCH HARE, and DORMOUSE, all carrying various construction equipment. They haven't noticed Alice yet.*

**MARCH HARE**

This way, this way, we haven't much time, it's nearly time for tea don't you know?

**DORMOUSE**

Time for tea? Time for tea! Tea! Tea! Tea!

*Bouncing round the stage before bumping into ALICE.*

**ALICE**

Tea, you say? I could enjoy some tea, actually, now that I think about it I've not had much to drink all day.

**MAD HATTER**

*(Bemused)*

Who are you?

**ALICE**

*(Brightly)*

I'm Alice!

**MAD HATTER**

Alice? I've never heard of you.

**ALICE**

That's awfully rude. If you've never heard of me why did you invite me for tea?

**MAD HATTER**

*(Glaring at the Dormouse)*

I didn't. But very well, tea time it is, so tea time it shall be. Hare, fetch the tea, won't you?

**MARCH HARE**

Yes, yes, right away.

*He bounces off and returns with the tea things.*

**MARCH HARE**

Here we are: time for tea!

**ALICE**

Oh splendid! Though I can hardly hold a tea cup while cradling a child, I could spill it and that would never end well.

**MAD HATTER**

A child? Oh, that. Pass him here, I'll, mm, hold him while you drink.

**ALICE**

Oh why thank you!

*She passes the child to the HATTER and takes a cup. The HATTER takes one look at the child and chucks it away across the stage. ALICE doesn't notice.*

**MAD HATTER**

So, er, Alice. What brings you to Wonderland?

**ALICE**

Well I followed a rabbit down a hole-

**MARCH HARE**

Ooh, dangerous past time that.

**ALICE**

I beg your pardon?

**MARCH HARE**

Well I followed a rabbit down a hole once. Next thing I know I'm lying on the ground with a pain in my head and they've stolen my kidney, the buggers.

**DORMOUSE**

Which kidney?



**MARCH HARE**

The one in the middle.

**ALICE**

Well, I'm sure this one wouldn't steal either of your kidneys, he didn't seem to have the time.

**MAD HATTER**

Do you know what time it is?

**ALICE**

I haven't the foggiest, I don't own a watch.

**MAD HATTER**

Hmph.

**DORMOUSE**

Hang on, if you don't know what time it is, when do you know when to have tea?

**ALICE**

I have tea when I'm told to.

**MARCH HARE**

Really? But who tells you?

**ALICE**

Well mother usually tells me when to have tea, but it's not likely she's 'round here anywhere, so I suppose for now I'll have to tell myself.

**MARCH HARE**

Well of course.

**DORMOUSE**

It's tea time now.

**ALICE**

Oh? Well it must be six o'clock then!

**MAD HATTER**

Very good! Yes, it is six o'clock. It's always six o'clock, but do you know why?

**ALICE**

Is this a riddle? In which case I'd guess that it's six o'clock because time's fallen asleep and forgotten to move along?

*The HATTER pauses.*

**MAD HATTER**

Yes... How did you...

(He pauses again)

Why is a Raven is like a Writing Desk?

**ALICE**

That's not a riddle, it's nonsense, just like the rest of the world. I've met cards that can talk back, animals that talk forward, and now a hatter who talks in no direction at all. Not to mention I haven't been able to find that palace, and the terrible things I've been hearing about your queen!

**MAD HATTER**

The Queen? What have you heard about our Queen?

**ALICE**

Not too much, but she seemed to have a lot of enemies to execute. I'm not sure I'd like to get on the wrong side of her.

**MARCH HARE**

Rightly so: off with *your* head it would be.

**DORMOUSE**

Don't want that... pass the tea!

**ALICE**

Well I shall try to avoid the Queen. I'm trying to find the bake-off anyway, do you know who's in charge?

**MAD HATTER**

The Queen.

**ALICE**

Oh bother.

**MAD HATTER**

Not to worry, though, I think I have a way that might make her more friendly: and you're just the person to... mm... deliver it.

**ALICE**

Oh?

**MAD HATTER**

Hare, get the vial.

**MARCH HARE**

Which vial?

**MAD HATTER**

You know, the *vial*.

**MARCH HARE**

Oh, the poison!

*MARCH HARE gets out the poison and passes it to the HATTER.*

**ALICE**

Poison?

**MARCH HARE**

No, no, um, sorry, I mean... the Poisson. It's French.

**ALICE**

French for what?

**MAD HATTER**

Fish, my dear. The Queen likes fish. And you're going to put some fish oil in her drinks to make her happy.

**DORMOUSE**

It's healthy!

**ALICE**

That does sound like it would be helpful. Very well, that I shall do, though can you point me toward her palace?

**DORMOUSE**

That way!

**ALICE**

Thank you, my dear dormouse. Why, this has been very pleasant. I hope to join you for tea again soon!

*Exit ALICE*

**MARCH HARE**

If you don't mind me asking, Hatter, what was the point of that entire exercise? There's no way the Queen will drink that poison.

**MAD HATTER**

Of course not, Hare, but it will get that irksome child in trouble with the Queen and beheaded: otherwise she could mess up our entire plan.

**DORMOUSE**

Nooooo...

**MAD HATTER**

Exactly. We can't have that, especially looking at the time!

**MARCH HARE**

Heavens, it's nearly six o'clock

**DORMOUSE**

Six o'clock? Time for-

**MAD HATTER**

*I KNOW.*

*Exeunt, shooed off by the MAD HATTER.*

*Scene 6: Oh what a lovely day for playing Croquet*

*Enter KNAVE OF SPADES, snooping around.*

**KNAVE OF SPADES**

Mon dieu, my head... That Hatter will certainly pay for what he's done. Nobody messes with the Knaves and survives. For long. I just need to get him in trouble with the Queen, and then, aha, off with his head it shall be! Justice!

*Enter HEDGEHOGS. Preferably, roll. I say preferably, I mean ideally, but I understand that this may not be possible. :(*

**HEDGEHOG 1**

(Snuffling)

Excuse me, do you have an invitation?

**KNAVE OF SPADES**

An invitation? I am the Knave of Spades, I go where I please.

**HEDGEHOG 2**

(Snuffling)

Um, well, this is an invitation only event. It says here on the list that the invitees are exclusively "Queen of Hearts", "Queen of Diamonds", and some girl called "Alice!".

**KNAVE OF SPADES**

Ah, but if I recall correctly, the Queen of Diamonds has been incarcerated for stealing some tarts. Mayhaps I can have her invitation?

**HEDGEHOG 3**

(Snuffling)

I doubt it. It'll probably go to Treasurer Uno.

**KNAVE OF SPADES**

The Treasurer? But I am a Knave! She's not even a picture card!

**HEDGEHOG 2**

Look, we're not checking tickets, we're just the balls.

**KNAVE OF SPADES**

You look too spiky to be testic-

## **HEDGEHOG 1**

Get out of here, would you? The Queen's approaching!

*The KNAVE OF SPADES attempts to blend in with his surroundings. Pretend to be a tree or something, I don't know. What do I look like, the Director?*

*Enter QUEEN OF HEARTS, ALICE, UNO, and CHESHIRE CAT.*

## **QUEEN OF HEARTS**

So you say you fell down a rabbit hole and just happened upon my gardens with an invitation to play croquet with me?

## **ALICE**

That's correct, your Majesty, as far as I can remember, though I scarcely know if what I can remember is what happened after all any more.

## **QUEEN OF HEARTS**

Well never mind that, my darling, you're here now and there's croquet to be played.

## **ALICE**

I do hope I don't embarrass myself though, your Majesty, I seldom played croquet back home, and while I know the rules I wouldn't know if I can actually play. But where are the mallets? And the balls and hoops for that matter?

## **UNO**

Mallets? Balls? Hoops? My dear, I don't know what sort of game you've been playing, but you don't need those to play croquet!

## **ALICE**

You don't?

## **QUEEN OF HEARTS**

No, no, of course not. Don't be such an idiot, child. Cat! Fetch the flamingos and the hoops!

## **CHESHIRE CAT**

Of course, your Majesty...

*The CAT disappears and returns, ushering on the TWO, FIVE and EIGHT OF SPADES, and carrying two flamingos which he gives to ALICE and the QUEEN. The CARDS all go and bend over to be hoops.*

## **ALICE**

How curious! Flamingos for mallets and playing cards for hoops? Now I really have seen everything.

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

CAT! What are these insubordinate cards doing here?! I thought I told you: “Off with their heads!” but their heads are still very clearly attached to their bodies.

**CHESHIRE CAT**

Your Majesty, if I may, you’ve sentenced so many of your people to death of late that only few remain for you to play croquet. These gardeners, as foolish as they were to defy your great will, will unfortunately have to do.

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

I executed *everyone* else? Oh my...  
(Momentarily, she ponders her actions)  
Nevertheless, on with the game! Where is my hedgehog?!

**ALICE**

Your hedgehog?

**HEDGEHOG 1**

(Running over)  
Right here your majesty!

*HEDGEHOG 1 curls up into a ball on the floor and the QUEEN OF HEARTS takes aim.*

**ALICE**

Why do you need a hedgehog to play croquet?

**UNO**

Hearts, are we really going to sit around talking or are we going to play some Croquet?

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

Watch and learn, Alice, this is how you play Croquet in Wonderland!

**Song: “Croquet till you Croak, hey”**

In which the Queen of Hearts, Uno, and Alice play Croquet, and the various components of the game get gradually more tired of being involved.

*After the song ends, the CHESHIRE CAT comes over to ALICE who is trying to line up a shot on her hedgehog.*

**CHESHIRE CAT**

How are you getting on, Alice?

**ALICE**

Oh, it's you. You were terribly rude to me earlier, so I don't think I shall talk to you. I don't even know your name!

**CHESHIRE CAT**

My apologies. Cheshire Cat, at your service.

**ALICE**

Pleasure to meet you, Cheshire.

**CHESHIRE CAT**

So how's the game?

**ALICE**

Frankly, I don't think this game is fair at all. There don't appear to be any rules in particular, at least if there, are then nobody attends to them. And it's so confusing that all the things are alive: for instance, I once should have croqueted the Queen's ball but it got scared of my ball and ran away, and also the hoop I'm meant to be going through next has simply wandered off.

**CHESHIRE CAT**

And how do you like the Queen?

**ALICE**

Not at all. What I heard about her was right -- she's so extremely...

*The QUEEN walks near ALICE*

**ALICE**

Likely to win! It's hardly worth finishing the game.

*The QUEEN smiles and walks away again. While the next bit goes on, the QUEEN should get into a bit of an altercation with the HEDGEHOGS.*

**ALICE**

Anyway, I suppose I should carry on playing. Have you seen my hoop?

**CHESHIRE CAT**

Is that it?



*He points to the KNAVE OF SPADES, who comes out from his hiding place.*

**KNAVE OF SPADES**

I'm no hoop, I'll have you know. I'm the Knave of Spades!

**CHESHIRE CAT**

The Knave of Spades? As in *THE* Knave of Spades?

**KNAVE OF SPADES**

The only one in the deck, at your service.  
(bows)

**ALICE**

At my service? I don't suppose you could bend into a hoop so I can finish this game?

**KNAVE OF SPADES**

Absolutely not! I am a highly trained fighter, not a... hoop.

**ALICE**

Shame.

**KNAVE OF SPADES**

Nothing of the sort! Now I don't suppose either of you have seen the Mad Hatter?

**ALICE**

I've certainly seen a Hatter who was mad. Why?

**KNAVE OF SPADES**

I need to exact my vengeance!

**CHESHIRE CAT**

Your vengeance? What for?

**KNAVE OF SPADES**

He killed my brothers. I want to stare him in the face when I exact my revenge and say "I am the Knave of Spades. You killed my brothers. Prepare to die."

**ALICE**

Gosh, Wonderland certainly seems violent.

**CHESHIRE CAT**

You get used to it...

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

*(Shouted)*

OFF WITH ITS HEAD! OFF WITH ITS HEAD! CAAAAAT!!!!

**CHESHIRE CAT**

Oh here we go again. What is it, your Majesty?

*The KNAVE OF SPADES exits in the shouting.*

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

This Hedgehog refuses to roll properly. Off with its head, I say!

**ALICE**

Off with its head? It's probably just tired, the poor thing.

**UNO**

Tired? Well this is what we get for not investing enough in the National Union of Hedgehogs!

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

Oh do be quiet, we all know that the N.U.H. is just a playground for Hedgehogs who want to play at politics: nobody listens to them.

**HEDGEHOGS**

Hey!

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

Oh, do be quiet and back to the matter at hand. Off with the hedgehog's head, Cat!

**CHESHIRE CAT**

Yes, very well, your Majesty.

*The CAT starts dragging off the HEDGEHOG, and the others exit, including the CARDS and KNAVE OF SPADES.*

**UNO**

Really, Hearts, this is a disgrace. First that bill from that ridiculous Top Trump for his wall, and now you're belittling the Hedgehogs!

**ALICE**

Perhaps you two need to stop and have some tea?

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

Tea? Bossing me around now are you? Off with her head!

**ALICE**

Nonsense!

*QUEEN OF HEARTS falls silent.*

**UNO**

Perhaps the child is right, Hearts. Perhaps we should have some tea?

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

Yes, Uno, I suppose. But first, the trial!

**ALICE**

The trial?

**UNO**

Yes, yes, the trial. Very well, the trial and then the tea.

**ALICE**

But-

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

Splendid. Off we go then! To the trial!

*QUEEN OF HEARTS and UNO exit, with ALICE desperately tagging along.*

*Scene 7: Axe.exe has stopped responding*

*Enter DODO, TWO OF SPADES, FIVE OF SPADES, EIGHT OF SPADES, TOP TRUMP all chained up (or as close to this as we can get given props). The CHESHIRE CAT is wearing an executioner's hood and holding the executioner's axe.*

**CHESHIRE CAT**

Come on, come on, we haven't got all day.

**DODO**

(Alarmed)

Cheshire, really, are you actually going to execute us? All of us? You don't have to do what the Queen tells you, you know!

**CHESHIRE CAT**

Well of course I do, it's my job.

**DODO**

Now that's just not true: you were meant to be telling a story, and now look where you've ended up. Executing... executing poor innocent gardeners!

**TWO OF SPADES**

Hear hear!

**FIVE OF SPADES**

Completely innocent, yes!

**EIGHT OF SPADES**

What they said!

**TOP TRUMP**

Yeah, I'm innocent! Why would you execute me? I've done nothing except defend our ears from irritating noises.

**DODO**

Quiet you, you're the only irritating noise here and you're really not helping the situation.

**TOP TRUMP**

But-

**CHESHIRE CAT**

Look, Dodo, it's not personal. If I could have it my way then nobody would lose their heads, but it's just how things work. I'm the executioner, I've got the axe and the hood, and if I don't chop your heads off then who will?

**DODO**

You could, you know, not chop off our heads?

**CHESHIRE CAT**

Well, I suppose...

*There is much rejoicing.*

**CHESHIRE CAT**

But I really do want to swing the axe. How about a compromise? I'll just behead one of you.

*There is much hysteria.*

**CHESHIRE CAT**

Oh come now, it's only one of you. No need to lose your heads over it.

*There is much groaning at the quality of that pun.*

**DODO**

Look, Cheshire, really, just be reasonable-

**CHESHIRE CAT**

I *am* being reasonable, Dodo, but have you felt this axe? Come and hold the axe and tell me you don't want to chop someone's head off with it.

**DODO**

Cheshire-

**CHESHIRE CAT**

Just do it!

*DODO reluctantly comes over to CHESHIRE and holds the executioner's axe.*

**DODO**

Oh, I say, that really is nicely weighted.

**CHESHIRE CAT**

Give it a swing.

*DODO swings the axe.*

**DODO**

(Orgasimically)

Ooh!

**CHESHIRE CAT**

You see?

**DODO**

I do see!

**CHESHIRE CAT**

Don't you just want to give it a swing and do one teeny tiny behead-

**FIVE OF SPADES**

Oi! Do you mind?

**CHESHIRE CAT**

I'm sorry?

**FIVE OF SPADES**

It's all well and good you enjoying the weight of an axe, but we'd still rather not be beheaded at all, if that's alright with you!

**TWO OF SPADES**

Hear hear!

**EIGHT OF SPADES**

Quite right!

**TOP TRUMP**

Exactly what I was thinking. You've clearly been brainwashed by the noisy noises of-

**TWO OF SPADES**

Quiet you, *your* noisy noises aren't helping in the slightest.

**TOP TRUMP**

But-

**DODO**

(Putting down the axe)

Look, Cheshire, I see where you're coming from, but can't you see where they're coming from as well? They'd very much like to keep their heads, and I imagine if you were in their position you'd like to keep your head as well.

**CHESHIRE CAT**

I suppose, but-

**DODO**

Be reasonable, for once.

*CHESHIRE CAT looks at DODO, and then at the cards, then at the axe on the ground and sighs, taking off the executioner's hood.*

**CHESHIRE CAT**

Very well. Off with nobody's head. Just don't tell the Queen.

*There is much rejoicing.*

**TOP TRUMP**

Excellent call, Cat, excellent call. It's proud Wonderlandians like yourself making important decisions like this that will help make Wonderland Great Again. Now, we haven't a moment to lose: that slimy Treasurer is ruining Wonderland by refusing our important wall to keep those preposterous teapots-

*TOP TRUMP rants and everyone gets a bit disconcerted.*

**DODO**

Actually, Cheshire, I've changed my mind. One beheading wouldn't hurt...

**TOP TRUMP**

Exactly, the Dodo speaks sense. Behead the Treasurer, I say!

**CHESHIRE CAT**

Hang on Dodo, are you suggesting that we behead a thinly veiled mockery of the Republican Candidate for the Presidency of the United States of America?

**DODO**

Well, yes.

**TOP TRUMP**

Wait, what?!

**CHESHIRE CAT**

I mean, as much as I do dislike the guy, don't you think we might get in trouble? I for one don't want to be subject to a trumped up law-suit.

**DODO**

Oh, I suppose you have a point. Can we do something though?

**TWO OF SPADES**

Can we just build him *into* a wall?

**DODO**

That works.

*The lot of them advance menacingly on TOP TRUMP.*

**TOP TRUMP**

Build me into a wall?! Betrayal, I say, betrayal!

**TWO OF SPADES**

Oh put a sock in it.

*Enter the SOCK TURTLE.*

**SOCK TURTLE**

You called?

*TOP TRUMP is chased off stage by an angry mob of playing cards, the CHESHIRE CAT and the DODO, with the SOCK TURTLE throwing socks at him.*



### *Scene 8: Trial and Error*

*Enter ALICE, while the rest of the trial scene assembles behind her. In particular, the QUEEN OF HEARTS standing as judge, with UNO at her side, the QUEEN OF DIAMONDS as defendant. Everything else is deliberately left up in the air by the writer (though I may have actually just covered everything).*

#### **ALICE**

Gosh, everything has gotten so very out of hand. I'm no closer to finding the Bake Off, nor flour to bake in it, and now I'm at a *trial*? Goodness, I didn't think I would be brought in for Jury Duty for many a year. And how am I supposed to get the Queen to drink the Hatter's fish oil? Oh dear oh dear oh dear...

*The trial should now be set up.*

#### **QUEEN OF HEARTS**

Order, order! I hereby bring the trial of the Queen of Diamonds to order. White Rabbit, read the accusation!

*WHITE RABBIT enters, dishevelled. Yes, that sort of dishevelled, you dirty rabbit.*

#### **WHITE RABBIT**

The Queen of Hearts she made some tarts,  
All on a summer's day.  
The Queen of Diamonds she stole the tarts,  
Like a massive bitch - er, your Majesty, who wrote this accusation?

#### **QUEEN OF HEARTS**

I did of course! Who else?

#### **UNO**

Quite right. A Queen in charge of her own justice system is a cheap justice system.

#### **WHITE RABBIT**

Quiet, you. This is a court, don't you know.

#### **QUEEN OF HEARTS**

Quite right, Rabbit. Wait, didn't I order your execution?

#### **WHITE RABBIT**

Um... let's... say... no?

**UNO**

Hearts, the trial?

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

Oh yes. Queen of Diamonds! How do you plead?

**QUEEN OF DIAMONDS**

Not guilty! Heartie, you have to believe me, I didn't steal any of your tarts, I-

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

SILENCE!

*Silence*

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

Bring in the first witness!

**ALICE**

Who is the first witness?

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

The Mock Turtle of course!

**ALICE**

The Mock Turtle? What's a Mock Turtle?

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

Well it's what Mock Turtle Soup is made of.

**WHITE RABBIT**

Erm, ma'am? The Mock Turtle isn't here. Apparently he's been eaten.

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

What?! Very well, bring in the second witness!

**ALICE**

Who is the second witness?

**UNO**

Why, the Mocking Turtle of course!

**ALICE**

What are Mocking Turtles?

**UNO**

Whoever they've offended, I would imagine.

**WHITE RABBIT**

Um, your majesty, the Mocking Turtle also appears to have been eaten.

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

What?! OFF WITH THEIR HEAD!

**WHITE RABBIT**

Whose head, ma'am?

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

Oh who cares? Someone's. Fine, send in the THIRD WITNESS.

**ALICE**

Who's the third witness?

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

Why, the cock- wait, how old are you?

**ALICE**

Eleven years old!

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

Um, never mind about that then. Rabbit, go straight to the Fourth Witness!

**WHITE RABBIT**

Very well, ma'am! Fourth witness!

*Enter the MARCH HARE and the DORMOUSE*

**ALICE**

Oh, I know who these are; they invited me to tea!

**WHITE RABBIT**

State your names!

**DORMOUSE**

Dormouse!

**MARCH HARE**

March Hare!

**WHITE RABBIT**

State your species!

**DORMOUSE**

Dormouse!

**MARCH HARE**

March Hare!

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

Give your evidence!

**MARCH HARE**

Evidence? What evidence?

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

Your evidence about the sordid affair that is the theft of my tarts by the Queen of Diamonds!

**DORMOUSE**

Oh, we don't have any of that. We just came for the free tea.

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

What?!?! Off with their heads!

**ALICE**

I say! Your majesty, isn't that a bit harsh?

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

OFF WITH THEIR HEADS!!!

**QUEEN OF DIAMONDS**

Heartie! Um... your Majesty, if I may speak?

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

Absolutely not!

**UNO**

I'll allow it.

**QUEEN OF DIAMONDS**

Heartie, please. I never went anywhere near your kitchen, and I would never steal your tarts: I know how much they mean to you. I wouldn't dare touch them!

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

You were caught red-handed!

**QUEEN OF DIAMONDS**

Lies! The Knaves, Heartie, they wanted to set me up. They were the ones who stole your wonderful tarts, not me!

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

Oh, I see. If that is the case, then the Knaves can answer! Rabbit, call the FIFTH WITNESS!

*Enter KNAVE OF SPADES. Exit WHITE RABBIT, DORMOUSE and MARCH HARE.*

**KNAVE OF SPADES**

Your majesty!

*KNAVE OF SPADES bows deeply.*

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

Knave of Spades, did you steal the tarts?

**KNAVE OF SPADES**

I did not, your majesty.

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

There we go. Queen of Diamonds, you are hereby found guilty of stealing my tarts-

**KNAVE OF SPADES**

However, it was the Knave of Hearts.

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

Wait, what?

**KNAVE OF SPADES**

The Knave of Hearts, he stole your tarts and took them clean away!

*Shock!*

**QUEEN OF DIAMONDS**

See, Heartie, I told you! I would never take your tarts.

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

But... but the Bake-Off! You were using me!

**QUEEN OF DIAMONDS**

I was only trying to make you do your best, Heartie, but to steal your tarts? Never! Now Heartie, I am sorry I was using you for your tarts: I've learned my lesson, I really have. It's your victory and you deserve it. I'll withdraw my buns, and let you take the prize you deserve.

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

(Touched)

Withdraw, Di? For me?

**QUEEN OF DIAMONDS**

Yes, Heartie, I don't want buns and tarts to come between friends.

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

Neither do I. Oh Di!

**QUEEN OF DIAMONDS**

Oh Heartie!

*DIAMONDS and HEARTS hug. This is all very touching.*

**UNO**

This is all very touching, Hearts, but surely we must get back to business?

**ALICE**

Oh do be nice, let them have their moment, Miss... er... actually, who are you?

**UNO**

My name is Uno, Draw-Four Uno, Treasurer to the House of Cards.

**ALICE**

Treasurer? But you're from the wrong card game!

**UNO**

Well of course I am, this doesn't have to make sense you know.

**ALICE**

Oh, and speaking of not making any sense, I've still got to give the Queen this fish oil from the Mad Hatter...

**KNAVE OF SPADES**

The Mad Hatter?

**ALICE**

Oh yes. He gave me this to give to the Queen.

*She holds up the fish oil and the KNAVE takes it and sniffs.*

**KNAVE OF SPADES**

Sacre bleu! This is poison!

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

Poison?!

**ALICE**

Oh no, your majesty, I was told it was fish oil by the Hatter.

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

Hatter would have me poisoned?

**KNAVE OF SPADES**

The Hatter is the one who stole your tarts, your majesty.

**QUEEN OF DIAMONDS**

Heartie, this Hatter is clearly more trouble than he's worth.

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

I do have to agree with you. Are you thinking what I'm thinking?

**QUEENS**

OFF WITH HIS HEAD!

**QUEEN OF DIAMONDS**

Alice, do you know where to find the Hatter?

**ALICE**

Oh, um, I'm not sure actually.

**KNAVE OF SPADES**

Curses!

**ALICE**

The March Hare and Dormouse might know, though, they were having tea with - oh, they've gone as well. Oh dear.

*Enter WHITE RABBIT at velocity.*

**WHITE RABBIT**

Your Majesty, Your Majesty! The Mad Hatter's been spotted building an enormous... clock... thing... In the Mushroom Meadows, your Majesty, you must hurry!

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

Well that solves that. Di, Uno, Spades, Alice, anyone else who's on stage, it's TEA TIME.

*Exit*



### *Scene 9: It's Tea-time*

*Enter MAD HATTER, MARCH HARE and DORMOUSE. The MAD HATTER is laughing manically. Not maniacally, but manically. The MARCH HARE and DORMOUSE are carrying precarious towers of hats.*

**MAD HATTER**

Come on, Hare, come on Dormouse, we haven't got all day. Well, we will do soon.

**MARCH HARE**

Quite, Hatter, I think I understand the plan now.

**DORMOUSE**

Me too, me too!

**MAD HATTER**

Quite right, Hare, I'm glad you understand the plan, because we wouldn't want anyone to be unclear on the plan. The plan we're enacting. Now. With all these hats.

**MARCH HARE**

Yes, the hats. And the clock.

**MAD HATTER**

Yes, the clock which we constructed and activated offstage. Yes, that clock.

**DORMOUSE**

Tick tock tick tock.

**MAD HATTER**

Good point, Dormouse. Hare, prepare the hats!

**MARCH HARE**

Um, Hatter.

**MAD HATTER**

Oh what is it? We're running out of time.

**MARCH HARE**

Well you know when I said I understood the plan entirely?

**MAD HATTER**

Yes. It was just now.

**MARCH HARE**

Well... I lied. I don't understand the plan. Not in the slightest.

**MAD HATTER**

What?! What about you, Dormouse?

**DORMOUSE**

Not a clue, not a clue!

**MAD HATTER**

(Sighs)

Fine, fine. Allow me to explain: my MASTER PLAN!

*Enter a whole pile of people. Specifically, on one side, HEDGEHOGS 1-3 and QUEEN OF DIAMONDS and UNO, and on the other side the TWO, FIVE and EIGHT OF SPADES and the QUEEN OF HEARTS, and ALICE.*

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

Hold it right there, Hatter!

**QUEEN OF DIAMONDS**

Quite right, hold it there!

**MAD HATTER**

But I'm not holding anything.

**UNO**

Oh, sorry, here, hold this.

*UNO passes MAD HATTER a croquet mallet.*

**MAD HATTER**

Why thank you.

**UNO**

Quite welcome

**QUEEN OF DIAMONDS**

Good. Now hold it.

**MAD HATTER**

Very well, but what's with this intrusion?

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

You're found guilty of orchestrating the theft of my tarts, various counts of murder, *and* the construction of... of...

**QUEEN OF DIAMONDS**

A clock... thing. Er, Heartie, what *was* the deal with the clock thing?

**MAD HATTER**

Don't you know? Well, allow me to explain: my MASTER PLAN-

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

No! I don't care to hear -- off with his head!

**MAD HATTER**

Minions!

*Short fight Scene: The HEDGEHOGS and GARDENERS attack from either side but are ruthlessly dispatched by the MARCH HARE and DORMOUSE. They fall to the ground dramatically (and far out of the way of everyone else still alive and trying to act).*

**ALICE**

If you don't mind my saying, your majesties, that didn't seem to go very much as you'd planned.

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

NO SHIT SHERLOCK.

**ALICE**

Who?

**MAD HATTER**

Ahem. As I was saying: my Master Plan!

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

OFF WITH HIS HEAD!! OFF WITH HIS HEAD!!

**MAD HATTER**

Oh I do wish you would take a TIME OUT.



*DIAMONDS and QUEEN OF HEARTS behead the DORMOUSE and MARCH HARE.  
Bitching one liners are encouraged.*

**ALICE**

Gosh, um, everything really has gotten so violent? Couldn't we resolve this with words?

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

Oh, Alice, you really don't understand, do you?

**QUEEN OF DIAMONDS**

No, Heartie, of course she doesn't.

**ALICE**

What don't I understand?

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

Sometimes you just need to behead your way through your problems.

**QUEEN OF DIAMONDS**

I mean, really, it is fun. Have you tried this axe?

*She passes ALICE the axe. She swings it around.*

**ALICE**

Oh, I must say, that is fun. But beheading your way through your problems, I'm not sure that's-

*MAD HATTER starts getting up, clutching his head.*

**ALICE**

Eek, zombie!

*Startled, she hits the MAD HATTER with the axe and he falls over, dead.*

**ALICE**

Oh, oh my. That wasn't supposed to happen.

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

Oh don't worry, nobody here's going to judge you.

**ALICE**

Oh I suppose. This really isn't how I expected today to go -- and I *still* haven't found the bake-off!

**QUEEN OF DIAMONDS**

The Bake-off? As in THE GREAT WONDERLAND BAKE-OFF

**ALICE**

Yes, that.

**QUEEN OF DIAMONDS**

Well most people who were going to enter appear to be dead.

**KNAVE OF SPADES**

*(Zombie-like, from the floor)*

I would like to submit mon croissant!

**ALICE**

Eek!

*ALICE instinctively hacks at the KNAVE. He dies.*

**ALICE**

Oops.

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

Don't worry about it, child, now I do think the bake-off is likely cancelled for now.

**QUEEN OF DIAMONDS**

(Horrificed)

NO!

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

It's alright, Di, we still have these delicious tarts.

*She pulls out the tarts.*

**QUEEN OF DIAMONDS**

Oh, yes! And you know what goes well with tarts?

**BOTH**

FISH OIL!

**ALICE**

Oh, I thought I had some fish oil but the Knave of Spades said it was poison...

**QUEEN OF DIAMONDS**

Don't be silly, he's French. He said "poisson". It means fish. Give it here.

*They put the "fish oil" on the tarts.*

**QUEEN OF HEARTS**

Here's to an exciting future, Di.

**QUEEN OF DIAMONDS**

Hear hear!

*They take a bite of the tarts in unison. They fall dead in unison.*

**ALICE**

Oh dear.

**UNO**

Good grief, who could have anticipated that?

**ALICE**

Not me. Say, how much money does it take to rebuild a monarchy? Two monarchies, even?

**UNO**

Well, I would say several... trillion...

*UNO realises how much it would cost, picks up the "fish oil" and downs the lot. She promptly falls dead.*

**ALICE**

Oh. Oh dear. Oh dear oh dear oh dear.

*Enter CHESHIRE CAT and DODO.*

**DODO**

You know, Cheshire, I'm really not sure this is how the story was meant to go at all.

**CHESHIRE CAT**

Yes, I think you're quite right, Dodo. Oh look, there's Alice. She's still alive.

**ALICE**

Oh, Cheshire, it's all very confusing.

**CHESHIRE CAT**

Yes, what *do* you make of our Wonderland?

**ALICE**

Well, if I had a world of my own, everything would be nonsense. Nothing would be what it is, because everything would be what it isn't. And contrary wise, what is, it wouldn't be. And what it wouldn't be, it would. You see?

**DODO**

Do you think Wonderland is like that world?

**ALICE**

No, there's a lot more murder than I expected.

**CHESHIRE CAT**

Oh.

**ALICE**

Um, do you know how I can get home?

**DODO**

Oh, yes, yes, I think we just need to go this way...

**Song: "Don't Lose Your Head"**